Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-152
Wednesday
7 August 1991

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Inter-Arab Affairs

'Final Version' of Damascus Declaration

NC0608171091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1454 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—At the Cabinet meeting today Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa put forward the final version of the Damascus Declaration approved by the foreign ministers of the eight countries that signed it—Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and the Sultanate of Oman—during their meeting in Kuwait on 16 July. The following is the text of the final version of the Damascus Declaration:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The Damascus Declaration on coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries:

The Arab countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Syrian Arab Republic, having participated in the Damascus meeting held on 5 and 6 March 1991;

Proceeding from the feelings of fraternity and solidarity that form the links between them, feelings that were developed through a noble legacy of cohesion, common struggle, and a profound sense of common aspirations, challenges, goals, and destiny;

Seeking to strengthen their abilities to shoulder their pan-Arab responsibilities to promote the standing of the Arab nation, serve its goals, safeguard its security, and achieve its common interests;

As part of strong adherence to the goals and principles consecrated by the charters and resolutions of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the United Nations;

And realizing the current profound transformations in the international arena which pose great challenges to the Arab nation and require the highest level of coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries;

Hereby reassert their rejection of the aggressive course and the alignment that occurred during the Iraqi aggression against and occupation of the State of Kuwait—which was a flagrant violation of the established Arab, Islamic, and international rules and norms and which destroyed many of the concepts and achievements of joint Arab action at a time when the Arab nation needed, more than ever before, to close its ranks and pool its resources to ward off many unprecedented dangers.

These countries declare their welcome of the liberation of the State of Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy. They express their deep pain at the suffering of the fraternal Kuwaiti people which resulted from the Iraqi regime's aggression. They also express their deep regret over the ugliest forms of suffering that the Iraqi people are experiencing due to the Iraqi leadership's apathy toward their interests. They assert their support for the Iraqi people in their ordeal and their total concern for the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq. These countries emphasize their resolve to exert efforts to infuse the joint Arab action with a new spirit and to establish fraternal cooperation among members of the Arab family on strong foundations based on the following principles:

First: Principles of coordination and cooperation:

Coordination and cooperation will be based on the following principles:

1. To act in accordance with the Arab League, the United Nations, and other Arab and international charters to strengthen fraternal and historic bonds and good-neighbor relations, to respect territorial integrity, to ensure regional security and equal sovereignty, to affirm the inadmissibility of forcible acquisition of territory and noninterference in domestic affairs, and to observe a commitment to settling conflicts through peaceful means.

2. To work toward building a new Arab order to bolster joint Arab action and to consider the arrangements by which agreement is reached among parties to be the foundation on which to build the achievement of these goals, and to leave room open for other Arab countries to join this declaration through agreement with its interests and goals.

3. To cooperate to enable the Arab people to direct all their resources to confronting the challenges facing stability and security in the region and to achieve a just and comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue on the basis of the UN Charter and relevant resolutions.

4. To stimulate economic cooperation among the signatories to form an economic grouping which would serve the cause of economic and social developments in these countries.

5. To uphold the sovereignty of every Arab country and its control of its natural and economic resources.

Second. Goals of coordination and cooperation:

1. In the political and security areas:
a. The signatories believe that the current phase, following the liberation of Kuwait from the occupation by the Iraqi regime's troops, provides favorable circumstances for dealing with the other challenges facing the region, chief among them the challenges resulting from the continued Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and the settlement of Jews in these territories. The signatories believe that an international peace conference sponsored by the United Nations is a suitable framework for ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab land and for guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with UN resolutions.

b. The signatories confirm their respect for the principles of the Arab League Charter, their commitment to the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement,

and their determination to work together to secure the safety and security of Arab countries.

Taking special notice of Clause Nine of the Arab League Charter, the signatories view the support the Egyptian and Syrian forces gave to the forces of Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries during the Gulf crisis as a perfect example of the implementation of the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Agreement as well as a basis for effective Arab security cooperation. In this context, any GCC country has the right to employ the services of Egyptian and Syrian forces on its territories if it so desires.

On this basis, the signatory countries will seek to formulate a comprehensive protocol which will add to the mutual commitments existing among Arab countries. This protocol will be deposited with the Arab League. It will represent a practical method for guaranteeing the security and safety of the Arab countries and an example for the achievement of a comprehensive Arab defense and security system. The signatories confirm that coordination and cooperation among them in this respect will not be aimed against any outside party.

c. The signatories seek to turn the Middle East into a region free from all weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and will endeavor to achieve that goal through competent international institutions.

2. In the economic and cultural field:
In conformity with the Arab League Charter, the Joint Defense and Economic Cooperation Pact among the members of the Arab League, and the other agreements on joint Arab action, the participating parties will seek to:

a. Strengthen the foundations of economic cooperation among the constituent parties as a preliminary step for expanding the scope of cooperation with the other Arab states.

b. Adopt economic policies to achieve balanced economic and social development in preparation for the establishment of an Arab economic grouping to confront the challenges and keep abreast of the developments resulting from the establishment of major economic groupings in the world.

c. Encourage the private sector in the Arab states to participate in the process of economic and social development, including consolidating the relations among the Arab chambers of commerce, industry, and agriculture and giving the small- and medium-size establishments the opportunity to benefit easily and tangibly from the fruits of joint cooperation.

d. Bolster the role of the scientific research centers and facilitate contacts among them that will enable them to carry out joint research and achieve integration in various fields of research.

e. Make use of human expertise and resources in the field of cultural and information exchange while respecting the values and traditions of the participant states and not interfering in their internal affairs.

f. In the field of the joint Arab action institutions:
Support the Arab League and confront all attempts to weaken or fragment it, and reaffirm commitment and adherence to the goals and principles contained in the League's Charter, while considering the possibility of developing and supplementing it with the results of the work of the Charter Amendment Committee and working out a system for the settlement of disputes.

Third. The organizational framework for coordination and cooperation:

The constituent parties will coordinate and cooperate to achieve the aforementioned goals by holding meetings at the foreign ministers level. These meetings will be hosted in turn by each of the participant states. The help of experts and specialists will be sought to study aspects of cooperation in order to achieve a new contractual formula for Arab cooperation among these parties. All the Arab states will have access to this formula.

Fourth. General rules:

Eight equally valid original copies of this declaration in Arabic were initialed in Damascus on 6 March 1991. This declaration becomes effective upon its ratification. The instruments of ratification will be lodged with the Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Kuwaiti Envoy Accuses Iraqi Envoy of 'Lying'

PM0508141391 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 1 Aug 91 p 1

[Nawwaf al-Shamari report: "Al-Ji'an Tells AL-ANBA': Iraq's League Representative Is Lying"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Text] 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Ji'an, our permanent representative to the Arab League, has emphasized that the reality of what took place at the meeting between the Iraqi regime's representative and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid was totally different from the Iraqi representative's account. Al-Ji'an added: From the statement by the Iraqi regime's representative, it appears that he is using the same methods of deception and misguidance used by his regime.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', he went on to say: I believe that this tactic seeks to mislead public opinion and the media, but it has met with no response or acceptance by the international community.

He pointed out that Iraq made false allegations on the pessoners issue at the meeting, and he said that we as a state cannot accept these allegations, especially because Communication and Transportation Minister Habib Jawhar Hayat emphasized in his statements after the Arab transport ministers' meeting that Iraq was trying to export Iraqis as Kuwaitis to Kuwait to undermine security and stability. This is unacceptable.

Al-Ju'an emphasized that the Iraqis who the Iraqi regime allege are Kuwaitis have no references to prove that they are indeed Kuwaitis, especially as all citizens and residents are registered with the Kuwaiti Government and on UN documents.

Al-Ju'an said that the only thing that emerged from the statement by the Iraqi regime's representative is his admission that there are 3,800 prisoners in Iraq, and it is their release that is being discussed. We have called on all international organizations to pressure the Iraqi regime to free all of them, including the non-Kuwaitis.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Continue Istanbul Session

Saudi Delegate Gives Speech

LD0508063491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2150 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Istanbul, 5 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has proposed holding the first international conference of the leaders of world Islamic groups and minorities in holy Mecca to discuss those groups conditions and the issues facing them. His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal, prince and foreign minister, said this in a speech at the first session of the ICO foreign ministers in Istanbul. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of the speech: [passage omitted on Koranic verses]

Mr. Chairman, honorable brothers: We meet today under critical and sensitive circumstances, the likes of which are unprecedented in the history of Islamic action. [passage omitted]

Our nation and the whole world witnessed a dreadful and unparalleled event at this time last year: One state's occupation of another, smaller state and the attempt to bury its sovereignty and to destroy its existence. That was a horrible event in itself, but its ramifications were even harsher and more serious. The aggressor was an Islamic Arab state, a member of the Arab League and the ICO, and the victim was an Islamic Arab state, which is, in turn, a member of the League and the ICO. [passage omitted]

We can imagine the extent of our disappointment when we saw that the painful blow dealt to our Islamic solidarity had come, not from an enemy who we had been watching, a jealous person whose evil we feared, or someone spiteful whose treachery we expected, but from a brother on whom we had bestowed our boundless love and loyalty and who we had supported during his hardship with our souls and all that is dear. We enumerate these facts because they are necessary for diagnosing the chronic disease that has rotted our institutions and solidarity. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we cannot begin this necessary historic process unless we overcome the current crisis, however, and this crisis cannot be overcome unless justice is done, the aggressor is brought to account, and the consequences of the aggression are removed. One cannot speak of a new page while the old page is still open before us with all its ugliness, victims, and tragedies. One cannot speak of a new phase while the circumstances that produced the crisis still exist. It is inevitable that we should have definite and fixed criteria in dealing with this issue and its results. It is neither logical nor acceptable for us to apply double standards that harm our nation and our cause as well as our image in the eyes of the world. It is unfair and unjust to demand the restoration of Islamic solidarity until we specify which party wanted to destroy this solidarity and until we make sure that it has been justly punished. [passage omitted] The least we can do at this conference is openly condemn the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait without any ambiguity, place the responsibility for this aggression and its consequences on the shoulders of the Iraqi Government, and unequivocally demand the implementation of the UN resolutions adopted on this matter. [passage omitted]

The fraternal Iraqi people, who are suffering tragedies and tribulations brought about by their regime, are now paying a dear price for a crime they did not commit. These peoples' tragedy and human needs are being dealt with within the framework of the United Nations and the committee charged with evaluating these needs. One should stress this. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would like to state that it holds feelings of friendship, love, and brotherhood for the fraternal Iraqi people and at the same time declares its eagerness to see the unity, territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty of Iraq preserved.

Mr. Chairman, peace is indivisible, and it cannot be established, nor can it be durable, unless founded on right and justice. Peace is not the acceptance of a current, imposed situation; nor is it surrender to power and coercion. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia believes that no real peace can be established in the Middle East as long as a just and lasting solution is not found for the Palestinian question. Saudi Arabia also declares that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Arab lands, and therefore is one of the constants that gets most of its attention. The Kingdom will continue its efforts to this end, proceeding from the UN and ICO resolutions concerning the question of holy Jerusalem. We are concerned that a real peace should be achieved which will ensure justice, restore the owners' legitimate rights, and establish firm bases for peace, security, and stability, proceeding from international law and from UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In this context, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has given its full support and complete backing to the efforts made to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict and bring about a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question. It also continues to contribute, with the rest of

the brothers who are loyal to the destiny of this nation and who are eager to ensure its supreme interests, to giving an impetus to these efforts. [passage omitted]

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already said on various occasions that the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab lands is considered to be a grave violation of international law and the relevant UN resolutions. It also constitutes a major obstacle to the current efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia categorically stresses that the will for peace should be imposed on all parties. The Arab side has shown every possible good intention and desire for a genuine and just peace which is based on right and justice, and every possible means will be used toward this end. The Palestinians have proven their inclination toward a peace based on right and justice. There is no longer any room for bargaining at the expense of Palestinian rights, either from within or outside the Arab family.

The Israeli side, which is still obstructing the peace process and refusing to respond positively to appeals for peace, should shoulder the responsibility for this policy and its repercussions. We are at a historic turning point; the Arabs have chosen the path of peace, and history will show no mercy toward those who constitute a stumbling block on this path.

The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques is following with interest and appreciation the successful steps that have been taken and are continuing by the Lebanese Government to implement the articles of the national reconciliation treaty concluded at the al-Ta'if conference, especially regarding its desire to extend the authority of the Lebanese state over all its land through its own forces. [passage omitted]

On this occasion, we should not miss the opportunity to urge the international community to take action in connection with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435 of 1988, providing for the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Lebanese territory which they are occupying in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Chairman, the issue of the Islamic Afghan people, who have struggled in a fierce battle with consistent jihad and firm determination to preserve their faith and their Islamic identity is one of the important issues that is of interest to all our states. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken every opportunity to support the just and legitimate jihad of the fraternal Afghan people.

The Kingdom has done and will always do its duty in supporting its brothers so they can achieve their objectives. They may set up the government they want, which will embody their hopes of keeping their sovereignty, territorial integrity, Islamic identity, and the independence of their political regime, so that the sons of this struggling people are able to enjoy security and stability in their homeland, after their long sufferings and great sacrifices.

The important stage reached in the Afghan issue requires intensive efforts to support the brothers' jihad. We should give our strongest possible backing to their just struggle in every way that will lead to the achievement of their goals. In doing this, we accept what is acceptable to the Afghan people, represented by the Mujahidin government, in complete freedom and of their own free will. We believe that the Kabul regime represents an obstacle to the solution of this issue and to peace in this Muslim country which is dear to us all.

In this connection, we hail the Afghan Mojahidin's acceptance of the UN secretary general's statement, which included their reservations regarding the Najibollah government.

On this point, I would like to draw attention to the situation of the refugee sons of the Afghan people, and I would like to stress the need for continued support and help so that they may return to their homeland in safety and dignity, easing their suffering, which represents a depressing human tragedy in the real sense of the word. [passage omitted]

I am pleased to announce from this rostrum that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian, has instructed me to extend an invitation for the first international conference for leaders of Islamic groups and minorities in the five continents to meet in Holy Mecca to discuss their situation and the problems they face.

Regarding the situation in Cyprus, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has already expressed its support for the negotiations taking place under the auspices of the UN secretary general and on the basis of Security Council Resolution 649 in order to find a just solution to this issue and preserve the basic interests of the Turkish Cypriot brethren. We must mention here the UN secretary general's praise for the constructive cooperation demonstrated by the Turkish Cypriots on this matter. We must also express our support for the peace conference called by the United States and accepted by the two sides.

Our organization has attached great importance to economic cooperation between the Islamic states; we view this as one of the major pillars of joint Islamic action and for the establishment of real islamic solidarity. Since the historic Mecca declaration, our organization has taken a big step toward structuring this action and its development. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman, the new international order, the features of which began to appear following the end of the cold war and have cast a shadow on the composition of regional and international groupings and their roles at the international level, requires us to take a serious stand and review the current and future role of our organization. I need not say here that our solidarity and our standing together as an effective organization at the

international level will be the best way for us to participate in the development of the new international order in accordance with the interests of the Islamic nation. [passage omitted] The entire world at this crucial phase of Islamic history is watching the Islamic movement with profound interest. The forthcoming summit meeting of our leaders to be held in the Senegalese capital Dakar in December will be a valuable opportunity to prove that we—by virtue of our unity, cohesion, and solidarity—constitute a force for the good of the whole of mankind. [passage omitted]

Lebanon's Buwayz Addresses Meeting

NC0708064091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Speech by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at the foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, in Istanbul on 6 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Mr. Chairman: We are at the threshold of holding a peace conference for the Middle East region. This conference comes at a time when we have lost much of our power and must compensate for this loss by exercising great prudence and affirming our unity. Israel is still holding the occupied Arab territories, is continuing to build settlements, and is rejecting the Palestinian representation. Our absence from this conference would only increase our isolation, and a political confrontation is therefore necessary. If we make good use of our resources and relations, the confrontation may enable us to restore our people's rights. We must turn the tables against the usurper and prove to the world that we are willing to establish a just and permanent peace.

Lebanon has been involved in the Arab and Palestinian issues from the very beginning and has given many sacrifices from its land, people, security, and wealth in support of thier cause. Despite all that has happened, Lebanon is now restoring its health. Lebanon has been the first to call for unifying the ranks and defending the Palestinian cause. [words indistinct] The long history of struggle, however, is rich with lessons that warn against those policies that would make us lose Lebanon without winning Palestine. Indeed, it is not fair, fraternal, or acceptable that Lebanon should remain the only open battle front with Israel while the other surrounding fronts experience a quiet truce. The Palestinians in Lebanon have the right to be treated as guests as well as brothers who should respect Lebanon's laws. They must not, however, impose an unfair burden on the south and on Lebanon alone among the Arab countries. The Lebanese blood that is being shed must be safeguarded as much as the Palestinian blood which is so dear to the Palestinians and Arabs. The same law must apply to the Lebanese as well as all those living in Lebanon. By accepting this important fact, the Palestinian brothers will usefully serve their cause as well as the Arab cause. They should behave on this basis, as they have begun to do with regard to the Lebanese Government's policy of deploying the Army and extending its authority throughout Lebanon.

The Palestinian brothers and all others must unify their position on the Lebanese Government's extension of its authority in southern Lebanon and the part occupied by Israel. They should face this [words indistinct] unified under the banner and command of the Lebanese Army. This will eliminate everything obstructing our efforts to refute all Israeli pretexts, everything preventing us from (?changing) the Israeli status quo in the south and from thwarting Israel's covetous designs on our land and water.

[Words indistinct] the efforts of the Lebanese Government to regain its rights through diplomatic and political means, then resistance will not be confined to one party. Lebanon, with all its factions, sects, areas, and parties, will become a united resistance under the banner of its leadership and Army.

Mr. Chairman, the voice of reason is being heard throughout the world, and the Arabs have begun accepting and dealing with many facts that take into consideration [words indistinct] the logic of emotion and spontaneity more than ever before. They now adopt a course of ensuring a nation's right to security, justice, and stability through the implementation of UN resolutions; in this case, Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Israeli Government will be making a mistake if it persists in believing, or trying to foster the belief, that the god on the other side of the border is different from the one within the Arab borders. He is the same God from whom we all come and to whom we all will return.

The (?implementation) of international legitimacy's resolutions at a peace conference will restore credibility to that legitimacy and remove the impression that these resolutions apply different standards for certain countries or issues. Israel will be making a mistake if it believes that the day will ever come when the Arabs will be willing to accept oppression, humiliation, and usurpation and to relinquish their dignity and land, no matter how long it persists in its policy of violence, pressure, and (?expansion).

If the the current settlement of Jews continues despite Arab [words indistinct], this will upset the demographic balance in the region and cause even greater bloodshed. The responsibility of those who are contributing to the settlement of Jews directly or indirectly is no less great than that of those feeble-minded people in Israel who do not know the history of the region [words indistinct] alien body in the region.

Mr. Chairman, Lebanon understands the meaning of stability and security very well. Lebanon, which has suffered greatly throughout its long ordeal, hails the UN secretary general's efforts to solve the Cyprus issue. [passage Lebanon]

Lebanon supports the efforts under way to eliminate ("biological), nuclear, and bacteriological weapons in the Middle East, including Israel. [passage omitted]

Lebanon is returning to the international community to regain its rightful role in defending justice, right, and peace. Lebanon has always been at the vanguard of those who gave assistance to needy friends. Lebanon hopes this esteemed conference and the international community will support its struggle to secure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for a complete and unconditional Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Lebanon also hopes that its reconstruction program will be assisted through the implementation of the Baghdad summit conference's resolutions on establishing an international fund to aid Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Syria's al-Shar' Criticizes Israel

JN0608164791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Al-Shar' delivered a speech today at the ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization, currently being held in Istanbul. Al-Shar' said that the UN resolutions, which will form the basis for the upcoming peace conference, should be applied to all fronts without negotiation, including Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.

He added: Israel's preconditions are rejected in form and content. The Golan Heights, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip must all be fully returned to their owners. Al-Shar' stressed that the Palestinian representation at the peace conference only concerns the Palestinian people and that Israel has no right to interfere in naming members of the Palestinian delegation or in determining the cities or areas they come from.

The foreign minister said: The several wars and bitter conflicts the Middle East region has witnessed since the end of World War II broke out after Israel was given free rein to exercise its expansionist ambitions in the Arab territories and its continuous attempts to obliterate the Palestinian people's rights. The absence of international law in our region encouraged Israel to continue its aggression before the eyes and ears of the world. It annexed Jerusalem and the Golan Heights and invaded Lebanon. The Iraqi leadership would not have dared, following its Army's involvement in a fierce eight-year war with Iran, to simply invade the State of Kuwait, annex it, expel its people, and erase it from the map had international law been present in our region.

He stressed that international law cannot be fully restored to the region except through ending the Israeli occupation based on UN resolutions and in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy.

Concerning Lebanon, the foreign minister advised that the period of civil war has ended with the adoption of a new national charter in Lebanon and the beginning of a successful march to unify the country and extend the legitimate government's sovereignty throughout all its territory. Al-Shar' affirmed that the unification of Beirut and the Lebanese Army—following several long years of dissension—and the subsequent disbanding of the militias have foiled the Israeli pretexts and have necessitated the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 that calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Yemeni Minister Calls For Solidarity

JN0608204791 Sanaa Yemen Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Aug 91

[From the "News Reports" program]

[Excerpts] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, Yemeni minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that the 20th Islamic foreign ministers conference is being held during complicated international and regional circumstances and at a historic turning point. [passage omitted]

In his address to the conference yesterday, he urged the Islamic nation to close ranks and overcome the painful negative situation which is making our society and relations suffer. The way to achieve this, he explained, is to find an appropriate way to employ the energies of the nation in accordance with the conference's main objectives.

Brother al-Dali said: We are deeply saddened by the pains and difficulties the Gulf crisis has caused everyone, and we are aware of the negative ramifications of that crisis. We are looking forward, however, to the time when everyone leaves the feelings of indignation, anger, and reaction behind them and works to close their ranks and unite their positions in accordance with the will of God, who calls on us to strengthen ourselves through unity and love. Now that Kuwait has been liberated, the Islamic family should act to overcome the bitterness and negative aspects of the events and act upon the fundamental principles of our religion, which is based on tolerance.

He called for supporting the Muslim people of Iraq so they can overcome their tragedy and for lifting the embargo against them, because Iraq has observed the Security Council resolutions and the requirements of international legitimacy. He argued that the Iraqi people are now going through an extremely difficult period due to the embargo on food and medicine. This, he said, makes it essential for us to support efforts to lift the economic blockade, especially as concerns medicine and food. [passage omitted]

Brother al-Dali stressed the importance of disarmament and arms limitation in our region for our security and stability and, consequently, for our people's development. He was satisfied with the positive international achievements on these issues, especially the agreements

reached and the steps made, the latest being the agreement signed in Moscow by the U.S. and Soviet presidents. He explained that the attempt to pressure certain Islamic countries into destroying their weapons and their scientific-nuclear capabilities makes some suspicious of their intentions. He stressed that the call for disarmament should be addressed to all countries, especially as Israel possesses a massive arsenal of these weapons of mass destruction but has not come under any pressure. This would upset the balance, downgrade the value and credibility of disarmament calls, and redouble [word indistinct] in the region.

In his address to the Islamic foreign ministers conference, the brother minister of state for foreign affairs touched on the sufferings he Palestinian people have experienced in their confrontation of the Israeli occupation and the Zionist oppression. He stressed that these people urgently need support to regain their national rights, including repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their land through the implementation of the UN resolutions, which should be measured by a single standard because they are the product of the indivisible international legitimacy.

He added: We are closely watching the efforts to convene a peace conference to find a solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict, and we hope that these efforts will succeed in pressuring Israel into complying with the will of the international community and withdrawing from all occupied Arab territories, including holy Jerusalem, in return for peace. We believe, he added, that peace and the determination to occupy territory cannot be reconciled. He stressed that Yemen supports the Palestinian people's right to choose their representatives to the peace conference without preconditions. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Minister Gives Speech

LD0608144791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Within Tunisia's address to the 20th conference of the foreign ministers of Islamic states meeting in Istanbul, Foreign Minister Habib Benyahia declared that the implementation of international legitimacy which put an end to the Gulf crisis requires a demand for the application of the same standards and measures to find a comprehensive and urgent solution to the question of Palestine and holy Jerusalem. He recorded his satisfaction with the efforts currently being made to find a Mideast settlement that depends on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and toward convening a peace conference. He stressed that peace is indivisible, and cannot be achieved except through the participation of all the concerned parties, and that Israel should prove its readiness to participate not only by attending the conference but also by putting an end to the colonial policies it continues to practice against the Palestinian citizens daily, and by halting the building and expansion of the settlements in the occupied Arab land.

Tunisia's address to the Islamic conference included its position on the challenges facing the Islamic world, which are particularly manifested by the emergence and intensification of the phenomenon of extremism, in which those who support it falsify its religion and give a negative impression of the tolerant faith and plant hatred within the individuals of the one nation. He pointed out that Tunisia, the cradle of Islamic civilization and the country which contains the Uqbah and the al-Zaytunah mosques, believes that our religion calls for cooperation and love and outlaws sedition, division, and interference in other peoples' business. We all, therefore, must combat this dangerous phenomenon which threatens the stability of our Islamic societies without exception, and we must cooperate genuinely and truly to contain this deviation which is—I regret to say—finding support and encouragement from parties that are hostile to our Islamic nation, its security, and its stability.

Habib Benyahia added that the challenges to development experienced by our states are getting worse due to the widening gap between the North and the South and also from the continued exacerbation of the debt problem which still constitutes the main obstacle facing our countries' development programs. Tunisia has given this problem special attention, as President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on more than one occasion has made appeals reaffirming the necessity of rescheduling debts and investing them in joint development programs. He also has called for the conclusion of an agreement for peace, development, and progress which will establish the framework for cooperation between the industrial and developing states to lay the foundation for a more equitable international system. [passage omitted]

Pakistan's Zaki Calls For Dialogue

BK0508152691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1400 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated that it desires a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and Simla accords. Akram Zaki, the leader of the Pakistani delegation leader and Pakistan's secretary general for foreign affairs, said this while addressing the Islamic Conference Organization foreign minister's meeting in Istanbul today. He said Pakistan will make continuous efforts to achieve peace and stability in South Asia. He further said that Pakistan has always expressed its willingness to hold a constructive and meaningful dialogue with India to achieve a peaceful solution to the outstanding issues. The Pakistani delegation leader said we should immediately pay full attention to those issues that are of continuing concern to the Muslim community, such as the denial of the right of self determination to the Kashmiri people, the impediments to the establishment of a broadly based government in Afghanistan, and the continued occupation of Arab territories.

Malaysian Delegate Urges Unity

BK0508152591 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Muslims should reassert their self-confidence by voicing their opinions more effectively to overcome their problems. Referring to the Gulf war that caused disunity among the Muslims, Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the time has now come for regional countries to achieve peace to avoid a similar conflict. Addressing the early session of the 20th conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization in Istanbul, Turkey, Datuk Abdullah said that the Palestinian people's plight is one of the problems that should be immediately settled, because the Gulf war has ended.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kuala Lumpur issued the text of Datuk Abdullah's speech. The five-day meeting began yesterday. Datuk Abdullah said that Malaysia welcomes any efforts to settle the Palestinian issue, but any move must be taken within the framework of the UN Security Council resoultions. Any talks on this issue must be attended by all parties involved, including the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Datuk Abdullah said that the Muslims should emphasize socioeconomic issues in addition to political matters. This effort should focus on the enhancement of trade and investment among fellow member countries and the exchange of skills and knowledge through training programs, among other areas.

Turkey's Giray on 'Water Summit'

TA0608194291 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1710 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (AA)—Foreign Minister Safa Giray has said: "What we are talking about is not a peace waters summit, but a water summit."

Giray visited the press center at the Hilton set up for the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting. He was accompanied by his daughter. Replying to a question, the foreign minister said: "It is not a peace waters summit, but a water summit. It will be mostly a technical conference at which we will study the issue of water—procuring water, saving it, recycling it, reducing its use for irrigation, and so on."

Giray said that the issue should not be misinterpreted to mean that "Turkey has a lot of water and can give some away." He stressed that some of Turkey's neighbors have more water than it does.

In connection with the cross-border operation, a reporter asked him: "Can we say that such operations will continue until the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] camps are eliminated in that region?" Giray replied: "No, we cannot say that. The prime minister made a statement. We will act according to that statement."

Replying to another question, Giray said: "We did not discuss closing down the PKK camps with [Kurdish leaders] Talabani or Barazani."

Al-Shar' Rejects Israeli Presence

TA0608185891 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1655 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (AA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is in Istanbul for the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting, has declared that if Israel attends the peace waters summit proposed by Turkey, the Arab countries will not participate.

Responding to our correspondent's questions on the issue, Al-Shar' said: "We discussed this issue when President Turgut Ozal received the ICO foreign ministers. His views are constructive and positive. The Turkish Administration is ready to discuss the problem and to find a just and suitable solution. All three countries, namely, Turkey, Iraq, and Syria, would benefit from such an agreement. The agreement we are thinking of envisions the just distribution of the waters of the Euphrates. Within the framework of this cooperation, Turkey and Syria can also sign an agreement on irrigation projects. Turkish officials have told us that Israel will not be invited to the peace waters summit, because, if Israel is invited, the Arab countries will not attend. It is impossible to even consider cooperation with Israel as long as that country continues to occupy Arab lands. As far as we are concerned, this is natural and is also in line with the UN Charter and international law."

The Syrian foreign minister also said that Israel is creating serious obstacles to the peace process. He concluded by saying: "Our position is very clear. The peace process must involve the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from all the occupied territories, including the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. That is the (?essence) of the U.S. proposals. The Americans have clearly said that the peace conference must convene on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the basis of the principle of land for peace. Israel has no right to exclude Jerusalem from the negotiations. No Arab country will accept that, nor will the Americans or the Europeans. Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories. Neither does Israel have the right to choose the Palestinian representatives who will attend the peace conference. This must be done by the Palestinian people."

Replying to another question, the Syrian foreign minister said that his country supports President Ozal's proposal for a quadripartite summit in connection with Cyprus, "because, at such a summit, all the concerned sides will be able to sit at the negotiating table."

ICO Delegates Meet on Sidelines of Conference

Velayati Supports Lebanon

LD0308124791 Tehran IRNA in English 1014 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, Aug. 3, IRNA—Liberation of the Zionist-occupied South Lebanon based on the U.N. resolutions is a top priority of [the] Beirut government, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday. Buwayz further added that the Lebanese Government is also considering administration reforms and reconstruction of the country as other highlights of its program. "Iran due to its regional and international credibility, is considered a strong supporter of Lebanon," he added.

The Iranian minister said Tehran favours a powerful Lebanese government and supports the integrity and independence of Lebanon. Tehran-Beirut ties were also discussed in the meeting of the two ministers. Velayati and Buwayz are currently in Istanbul for the 20th meeting of the foreign ministers of the 45-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO], to open Sunday.

Meets Algerian, Libyan, Kuwaiti Envoys

NC0708085791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati yesterday held separate meetings with several of the participants in the conference of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers now under way in Istanbul.

During his meeting with the Algerian foreign minister, Mr. Velayati stressed the need for the Islamic countries to work together to defend Palestinian rights and said the Islamic countries themselves should launch an initiative for a new international order which will protect the interests of the Islamic 'ummah. He added that such a proposal can give the ICO a strategic impetus. The Algerian foreign minister briefed Mr. Velayati on recent developments in his country and stressed the need to expand bilateral relations. He proposed that the two countries' foreign ministers or their deputies meet periodically to discuss matters of mutual interest.

At another meeting with Mr. Velayati, the Libyan foreign minister criticized Iraq's aggression against Iran and Kuwait, which he described as Saddam's two biggest mistakes.

Mr. Velayati also met with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, who briefed him on the progress of reconstruction in his country and expressed its desire to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council was also discussed at the meeting.

Our correspondent in Turkey reports that the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Yugoslavia, and Algeria invited Mr. Velayati to visit their countries. The foreign minister accepted these invitations, and the appropriate dates for the visits will be determined.

Giray Meets Libya's Al-Bishari

TA0608112991 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray is continuing his bilateral contacts, and today met with Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, Libyan secretary for external liaison and international cooperation.

In a statement following the meeting, Giray said that relations between the two countries were discussed and that there were no differences of view. He added that Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi has invited President Turgut Ozal to participate in the opening ceremony for the artificial river project.

Giray said that the difficulties of Turkish contracting firms in Libya was also discussed and that efforts will be intensified to solve existing problems.

In turn, Al-Bishari said that both sides were determined to promote bilateral relations.

Says Lebanon To Eliminate al-Biqa' Camps

TA0708075891 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray has said that the Lebanese Government will eliminate the terrorist camps in the al-Biqa' valley. Giray met this evening with Faris Buwayz, Lebanese minister of foreign and expatriates affairs, currently in Istanbul for the 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting.

In a statement after the meeting, Giray said that the Lebanese Government's moves to extend the state's authority over the entire country is a good beginning. Buwayz, in turn, said that Lebanon wants to further develop relations between the two countries.

Giray also held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Senegal, Yemen, Benin, Mali, Brunei, Tunisia, Bangladesh, Chad, and Morocco. The ICO foreign ministers meeting will continue tomorrow with speeches that will be delivered by the member countries' foreign ministers at the general assembly. The conference will end on 8 August with a final communique.

Meets Malaysian, Indonesian Ministers

TA0608110891 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0935 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (A.A)—[Turkish] Foreign Minister Safa Giray on Monday separately met his Malaysian and

Indonesian counterparts, both currently here to participate in the 20th session of meetings of foreign ministers from the Islamic Conference Organization (ICO) member states.

A Foreign Ministry official said later that the meetings at Giray's hotel had been courtesy calls on the part of Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Abdullah Alatas and Malaysian Foreign Minister Bin Haji Ahmad Badawi Abdullah.

The official said the talks had focused on the development of respective bilateral trade and economic relations.

Turkey shares a joint trade volume of 31 million dollars with Indonesia and a trade volume of 120 million dollars with Malaysia.

Mozambique's Mocumbi Meets Counterparts

MB0608121491 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Mozambican Foreign Affairs Minister Pascoal Manuel Mocumbi attended the Organization of the Islamic Conference's 20th ministerial conference in Istanbul, Turkey, yesterday.

Outside the conference, Foreign Minister Pascoal Mocumbi held meetings in Istanbul yesterday with his Indonesian and Brunei counterparts, as well as with the Saudi ambassador to Turkey.

Pascoal Mocumbi also met Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, whom he invited to visit Mozambique and to whom he conveyed the desire to strengthen bilateral ties. The 20th ministerial conference is scheduled to continue today with general discussions of the items on its agenda.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Issues Surrounding Peace Conference

'Arafat Rejects Israeli Conditions

LD0608142591 Rabat MAP in English 1313 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, Aug 6 (MAP)—"We said yes for the peace conference and we have set no conditions, but we will not comply to Israeli conditions", Palestinian head of state Yasir 'Arafat said Tuesday confirming the rejection of Israeli conditions on the Palestinian representation to the conference.

He said "if the United States gave in to the pressures of Israel and the Jewish lobby, not a thing forces us to do the same" adding that "the accord of James Baker on the non-representation of al-Quds [Jerusalem] and the exclusion of the issue from the agenda of the conference" means that Baker has "officially agreed on the Israeli plan".

The American stand, he said, is characterized by "nos" to the Palestinian representation, to the PLO, to the Palestinian self-rule right and though Baker speaks of guarantees for all the parties he did not during all the meetings he held refer to the PLO which is the main party.

President 'Arafat said that the United States wants to force the Arab states to sit around the negotiation table under Israeli conditions explaining that when bringing the non-representation of al-Quds to the conference Israel wants to channel the issue towards a deadlock.

'Arafat Sends Message to Khamene'i

JN0608171391 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, sent an urgent message to His Eminence Imam Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on the serious developments threatening holy Jerusalem and the sacred Islamic places. Brother Abu-'Ammar said the alleged peace plan seeks to exclude Jerusalem—as a sacred place and citizens constituting part of a people—with a view toward fulfilling the continuous Zionist conspiracy against the holy Islamic and Christian sanctums in the city and perpetuating the city's occupation as the capital of Greater Israel. At the end of his message, brother Abu-'Ammar said: I am also confident that the masses and leaders of our Islamic nation will listen to your call to protect holy Jerusalem and the other sanctums in the blessed land of Palestine.

'Arafat Letters to European Leaders

LD0608194291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, today sent urgent letters to West and East European heads of state relating to the dangerous developments surrounding the cause of the Palestinian people and their just and legitimate rights, foremost the question of holy Jerusalem.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar explained that the movements and steps by the United States only take into consideration the Zionist interests and ambitions in the occupied territories at the expense of the rights and existence of our Palestinian people. Brother Abu-'Ammar described these movements as being a new, continuing conspiracy against our people and our sacred cause, aimed at the Judaization of the Islamic and Christian holy places—including the city of Jerusalem, which the American-Zionist scheme is deliberately endeavoring to exclude from the negotiations in preparation for consecrating it as an eternal capital of greater Israel.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar urged the heads of West and East European states to exercise their effective role

in protecting the Palestinian people and their legitimate national rights recognized by international legitimacy and UN resolutions, which Europe had effectively participated in formulating, especially those relating to the holy city and the rejection of its Judaization or the introduction of any Israeli legal changes to it.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said in his letters: Our Palestinian people are looking up to you to stand with them, and to translate into reality the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially in these difficult times, and to prevent the execution of this Zionist scheme.

Palestinians Reject Conditions

LD0608215291 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, announced today the Palestinian people's categorical rejection of Israeli and U.S. conditions for Palestinian representation at the proposed peace conference on the Middle East.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said in an interview with REUTER today, Tuesday, that the Palestinians said yes to the peace conference. Commenting on the trip by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to the Middle East and Arab Maghreb countries, which ended last night, brother Abu-'Ammar said that Baker's agreement to the nonrepresentation of Jerusalem and to the exclusion of this issue from the agenda of the peace discussions indicates that he is officially and practically in agreement with the Zionist plan.

Brother Abu-'Ammar explained that if the United States of America surrendered to the pressure exerted by Israel and Jewish pressure groups, there is nothing to oblige the Palestinians to do the same thing. Brother Abu-'Ammar added: It is true that Baker said that he will give guarantees to all the parties, but he never referred in any of his meetings to the PLO, which is the principle party in the peace.

Brother Abu-'Ammar also questioned Baker's affirmation in Tunis that the American position toward the Arab-Israeli conflict will not change, pointing out that the United States of America wants the Arab states to participate in the negotiations on Israel's preconditions. Brother Abu-'Ammar said that if the United States has succumbed to Zionist blackmail and the Jewish lobby, we are not obliged to agree and succumb to these conditions, to which the American administration has. Brother Abu-Ammar pointed out that Yitzhaq Shamir, who announced that Jerusalem is not a subject for negotiations, is the one who made this point an obstacle to the peace negotiations, not the PLO. Brother Abu-'Ammar stressed that the Israeli forces are continuing the Judaization of Jerusalem and that it is building new settlements in the occupied territories even while Baker was making his rounds.

PNC Speaker on U.S. Offer

JN0608172991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Aug 91 pp 1, 14

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Excerpt] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, Palestine National Council [PNC] speaker, has categorically denied that he met with a U.S. Congressional delegation which had proposed that he lead a committee for negotiations with Israel.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, he said any negotiations with Israel to find a durable and just solution to the Middle East crisis is within the jurisdiction of the PLO's executive authority, not the legislative authority. He indicated that whoever is seeking the peace aspired by the peoples of the region should speak to the PLO Executive Committee officials.

On his assessment of the seriousness of the U.S. move in the region, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that political facts and material bases governing our moves should be taken into consideration. He explained that the military option is missing, an Arab consensus is nonexistent, the force and influence of oil has diminished, and the Gulf war exhausted a great deal of resources and resulted in immense losses.

He added that there are divisions within the Arab house. He said money is flooding into Israel, which is receiving unlimited military and economic aid to resolve the problems faced by the Zionist entity. He said this gives the United States a strong position as a superpower which has interests in the region. Hence, the United States has become an influential and effective player in the region.

The PNC speaker believes that negotiations, if they ever get started, will not start easily but will face difficulties similar to those faced by the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations. He noted, however, as soon as negotiations do start, they will yield positive results in the interest of the Palestinian people's rights without relinquishing our legitimate rights.

He said that the failure of negotiations may enhance the possibilities of a military confrontation by Israel on the eastern front in view of the absence of international pressure. He said this is because the Zionist attempts now focus on aborting the peace process. If we assume that a confrontation will take place, Shaykh al-Sa'ih says, our only way to confront this scheme is through effective Arab solidarity.

Alluding to the United States, Shaykh al-Sa'ih said that the grand guide should work to enforce international legitimacy and implement UN Security Council resolutions by force. He said the United States should not trust whatever peace plans Israel offers because they are illusionary plans which achieve no peace because the Israelis do not want peace; they want to usurp more Arab territory and impose hegemony over the region.

Most probably, the Palestinian official adds, Washington knows well that there are no new Palestinian initiatives and nothing can be added to what has been offered to the peace process. He said Israeli intransigence may have shocked the United States. Therefore, he said, the United States should drastically review its policy because the top-level officials in the White House now believe that the price the United States is paying to Israel has become intolerable. [passage omitted]

Jerusalem Issue Not Negotiable

JN0608175291 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih has sent a cable to Abdelaziz Belkhadim, chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU], and a similar one to the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. Shaykh al-Sa'ih reaffirmed the decision of the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership not to abandon Jerusalem in terms of sovereignty and organization [tanzim].

He stressed that the question of Jerusalem is an undebatable and unnegotiable Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic issue. He asked the APU and the ICO to inform all heads of Arab parliaments and heads of all Islamic governments and parliaments of this decision. He also urged support for Palestinian people's right to their most sacred places and the capital of their independent state.

PLO Agrees To Participate

NC0608184491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] According to PLO representative in Cairo Sa'id Kamal, the PLO has agreed to participate in the proposed regional peace conference. He said the conference could convene in Cairo or Washington. Kamal said the Palestinians would not allow Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to obstruct peace efforts. He noted that a PLO delegation was expected to arrive in Cairo for talks with Egyptian officials aimed at achieving full coordination in their positions. Kamal also expressed the hope that a quadripartite Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Egyptian meeting could occur before the international conference in order to achieve a unified Arab stand among what he called the basic parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict.

'Arafat Says No Participation

JN0708110791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, said that the Palestinians will not be represented in the peace conference, expected to convene next October, if the PLO does not select its own representatives.

Commentary Says Representation 'Not Negotiable'

LD0708053791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, during James Baker's meetings with Palestinian personalities, these personalities clearly and through written memoranda expressed the Palestinian position on the need to recognize legitimate national Palestinian rights, including: the right to self-determination; application of the land for peace principle, i.e. Israel's withdrawal from the land it occupied in 1967, above all, from East Jerusalem; halting the building of settlements in all parts of the occupied territories; and other important and sensitive issues. News agencies reported news to the effect that a U.S. team will arrive in Israel tomorrow to make necessary arrangements for a U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding and a U.S.-Palestinian memorandum.

The Israeli Government will try to drop the land for peace principle and strike out the Jerusalem issue. We notice from all the official Israeli announcements affirmation of the rejection of any discussion of the Jerusalem issue or the withdrawal from the occupied territories. Yitzhaq Shamir, prime minister of the enemy, said a few days ago: You know me, I will not give up a millimeter of land.

On the Palestinian side, international legitimacy must be the lighthouse and the guide in all movements. The interpretation of Resolution 242 as meaning the withdrawal of Israel from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967; the complete cessation of the settlement operations; recognition of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and of its right to choose its representatives; affirmation of the Palestinian sovereignty over the land, waters, natural resources, and educational, social, economic, political, health, security, and housing affairs during any transitional period; and the right of the PLO to choose the Palestinian delegation that represents all sons of the Palestinian people, are matters recognized by the international legitimacy. Reaching agreement on them should be no more than an affirmation of respect for the principle of international legitimacy and not a favor or a gift from anybody. The quarters which reject these principles are rejecting the international legitimacy, and if the United States and others decided to respect international legitimacy, they would have in so doing abandoned an erroneous policy, nothing more.

Peace can only be established on the basis of the principles of international legitimacy, such as those which guaranteed the Palestinian people the national and humanitarian rights, considering it a people like all peoples of the world. Accordingly, any talk on a U.S.-Palestinian memorandum or on a Palestinian position in any direction must rest totally and entirely on the international legitimacy. To depart from these principles is to depart from peace, and the demands that lie outside

the framework of international legitimacy must inevitably be null and void. On this basis, all the current talk about the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the exclusion of Jerusalem or the Palestinians of the diaspora is a violation of the international legitimacy. The Palestinian people's right to choose its representatives is not negotiable.

Editorial on Delegation From Territories

TA0608150691 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Hard Decision and the Unfavorable Conditions!"]

[Text] Secretary Baker concluded his sixth visit to the region with achievements that many regard as a large stride toward the realization of peace in the region through the convocation of the upcoming peace conference. If Baker has still not received the Palestinian response, he hinted that he is confident that he left the Palestinians no option but to say "yes." Observers seem more satisfied that the parties to the conflict will sit at the negotiating table in October.

In the political Palestinian arena, there is a clear contrast between rejection and support for the peace conference. There are a large number of voices in the ranks of the Palestinian people which reject the conference and believe that yielding to the U.S. Administration is a blunder because the conference is doomed to failure or because it will liquidate the Palestinian cause. Even those who call for participation in the conference have begun to pose numerous questions to the Palestinian leadership, such as whether the proposed U.S. plan responds to the Palestinian people's aspirations and hopes. Undoubtedly, the Palestinian leadership is facing a hard, if not the hardest, decision that it has had to make since its inception in 1965. In the wake of the Gulf war and as a result of the current international situation and Arab retreat, the Palestinian people have lost many of the cards of power and pressure which they possessed. Although the United States and Israel know that the peace conference will fail if the Palestinian problem is not resolved, the conditions raised by them for Palestinian participation are inauspicious.

If all the parties are awaiting the Palestinian response, the eyes of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories are focused on Tunis to find out what the Palestinian decision is. Herein lies the danger. It is the duty of our people to express their views and notify the leadership of their conviction. It is not right that we let the leadership alone bear the responsibility for this decision. We have previously said that the conference is no more than "a trap" set for the Palestinian cause. It is not only our duty but also our national responsibility to address the leadership frankly, not just with "yes" or "no," but with alternatives. If the leadership, or those whom it authorizes, enter into the negotiations and fail, all of us will bear the responsibility, and if they succeed in achieving the better part of our aspirations, this will represent a victory for the entire Palestinian people.

If we sit on the sidelines and let the leadership adopt the decision which it deems fit and then lament our luck and leave judgment to coming generations, this is no indication of our people's awareness and their resolve to gain their rights for which they have been distinguished among nations.

To put it bluntly, American policy is seeking to resolve the Arab and Palestinian-Israeli conflict through the convocation of a peace conference on the basis of unilateral solutions between Israel and each Arab state separately and to settle the Palestinian problem between Israel and the residents of the occupied Palestinian territories in accordance with the Camp David accords. Thus the dual-track peace process was forged for the upcoming conference, which lacks any powers. Its task is to gather the parties around the negotiating table. This perception dictates that one reject participation in the peace conference, but we should not look at one side only and avoid looking at the whole picture. There are international promises committed to achieving Palestinian rights.

It is not in our interest to hinder the chances of peace, but at the same time we should defend the rights in our favor which international legitimacy has affirmed through numerous resolutions. In the face of this grave dilemma, we believe that the leadership has no alternative but to give "the green light" to a delegation from inside the occupied territories to attend the desired conference. Let us see where those Arabs and non-Arabs who are running after the American mirage will lead us.

International Legitimacy Basis of Memorandum

TA0608173991 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Aug 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Palestinian-U.S. Memorandum of Understanding"]

[Text] During U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's meeting with Palestinian personalities, they expressed the Palestinian positions with total clarity and through written notes. Those positions relate to the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost of all the right to self- determination; implementing the land for peace principle, meaning Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967, first and foremost East Jerusalem; halting settlement in all parts of the occupied territories; and other important and sensitive issues.

News agencies have reported that an American team has arrived in Israel to make the necessary preparations for a U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on one hand and a Palestinian-U.S. memorandum on the other.

As for the Israeli side, the Israeli Government will try to have the land for peace principle declared null and void

and will seek to omit the issue of Jerusalem. We note that all official Israeli statements emphasize the refusal to discuss the question of Jerusalem or withdrawal from the occupied territories. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a few days ago: "You know me. I will not give up one millimeter of land."

As for the Palestinian side, international legitimacy should be the beacon and guide of all the moves. Interpreting Security Council Resolution 242 as Israel's withdrawal from all the Arab lands it occupied in 1967; a complete halt to settlement activity; recognition of the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and the choice of their representatives; stressing Palestinian sovereignty over land, water, natural resources, and on educational, social, economic, political, medical, security, and housing affairs in any interim period; and the PLO's right to choose a Palestinian delegation that represents all the Palestinian people are issues confirmed by international legitimacy. Reaching agreement on them will merely be an acknowledgement honoring international legitimacy, not a favor or a gift from anyone.

The parties which reject these principles reject international legitimacy. If the United States and other countries were to decide to honor international legitimacy, they would merely be abandoning a wrongful policy. Peace can only be based on the principles of international legitimacy, which have guaranteed the national and human rights of the Palestinian people, just as other nations of the world.

Hence, any talk about a Palestinian-U.S. memorandum of understanding or any Palestinian position on any issue must be totally and comprehensively based on international legitimacy. Moving away from these principles means moving away from peace. Demands that fall outside the framework of international legitimacy are inevitably null and void and invalid.

On this basis, all current talk about forming a Palestinian delegation or the exclusion of Jerusalem and the diaspora are a violation of international legitimacy. The right of the Palestinian people to choose their representatives is not subject to bargaining.

Jerusalem Paper on Palestinian Delegation

TA0608194091 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 6 Aug 91 p 12

["News analysis" by columnist Sirhan al-Salayimah: "The Balance of Power in the Occupied Territories Affirms the PLO's Role in Forming the Palestinian Delegation"]

[Text] "Radio Israel" in Hebrew quoted Israeli military sources as saying that any Palestinian delegation to the peace talks will only be formed by and through the total blessing of the PLO. Those sources added that the makeup of any delegation not supported by the PLO will be ineffective and have limited power.

The conclusion arrived at by the Israeli military sources is the full and objective truth, reflected by the practical reality as well as by the balance of power in the occupied Arab territories, but the question is: Why do Shamir and other members of his cabinet refuse to take into consideration the viewpoint of the military commanders and the professional cadres in Israeli security organizations? These are commanders in whom the Israelis have full confidence and whose views and opinions are considered indisputable and not subject to doubt. Shamir and members of his cabinet persist in disregarding the facts laid out for them very clearly not by Israelis or Europeans but by their own officers in whom they have the utmost trust and on whom they depend completely in security matters and in drawing up appropriate plans for putting an end to the "intifadah." Continuing to disregard the fact that the PLO exists in the heart of every Palestinian, that it is the sole legitimate representative of the Arab Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories, and that it is the focal point of political gravity epitomizing the hopes and aspirations of the Arab Palestinian people, who look forward to freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state does not invalidate the shining reality and will not contribute to achieving peace and security in the Middle East.

A popular old adage says: "It is still a goat even if it flies." Today the Israelis, with their intransigent positions that reject the basic reality, epitomize this popular adage. It is regrettable indeed that the Americans, after having realized the facts, have now backed down, not because the facts are wrong but to satisfy the Israeli Government and placate the Israelis. What is more regrettable is that these days some Arab countries have adopted the same approach as the United States concerning Palestinian representation and the PLO's role, forgetting the 1974 Rabat summit resolutions stipulating that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. These countries embark on such an act in response to U.S. policy, which is biased in favor of the Israeli position that basically rejects not only Palestinian but other Arab rights as well.

The PLO is not individuals, as some ignorant people believe, but an idea that epitomizes the hopes and aspirations of a people. Anyone circumventing it circumvents the Palestinian people's hopes and aspirations. The Palestinian people will never go to a conference or enter into negotiations that they feel will not ultimately lead to the achievement of their legitimate rights as well as their right to freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. Therefore, we call on all to understand the PLO's meaning.

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives Invitation From al-Qadhdhafi

LD0608164291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Today President Chadli Bendjedid received Mr. al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, the Libyan special envoy, who delivered a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message included an invitation to President Chadli Bendjedid to attend the Libyan people's ceremonies on the occasion of inaugurating the first phase of a civilized project [man-made river] on 28 August.

Authorities May Lift State of Siege 1 Sep

LD0708022791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] L'OBSERVATEUR weekly today reports that the state of siege imposed on 5 June could be lifted 1 September, adding that military authorities believe there is no longer any need for the state of siege since the situation is returning to normal.

Socialist Front Leader Discusses Bendjedid Talks

LD0708031691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The forthcoming legislative elections were at the heart of talks today between head of state Chadli Bendjedid and Ait Ahmed, secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS]. The Republic's president, in fact, received the FFS leader at his request. The date of the legislative elections has been set for November; the precise date of the elections will be announced by the head of state at the end of August or the beginning of September, according to Ait Ahmed:

[Begin Ahmed recording] [passage omitted] I expressed two main concerns to the head of state: holding legislative elections—on this point the head of state gave an assurance that the elections will take place in November; the precise date for them will be set at the end of August or the beginning of September—and the Palestinian question—I expressed the view that the international conference is both a hope and a date to be feared. The Maghreb countries must now unite in their efforts to guarantee Palestinian national rights and to mobilize national and international opinion to prevent Jerusalem's annexation. Jerusalem must remain the home of world civilization and culture. [end recording]

Opposition Parties 'Indignation' at Baker Visit

LD0608101791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] James Baker's visit to the Arab Maghreb has provoked the indignation of several political parties in Algeria, and one of them is the Movement for Democracy in Algeria [MDA]. Mr. Ahmed Ben Bella's party said in a statement: Baker's visit to our region comes after the chief of the U.S. diplomacy managed to impose the U.S.-Zionist peace and after he achieved Israel's ambitions and eliminated Arab resistance.

The Party of Alliance for Justice and Freedom stated that it doubted if the efforts currently being made to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict would succeed because of Israel's intransigence and its refusal to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people and because of continued U.S. submission to the arrogance of the Zionist enemy. The statement added that it is unacceptable that the United States tries to obtain the support of the Arab countries while it continues to impose its criminal blockade on the Iraqi people. It is also unacceptable that America tries to resolve the Palestinian problem in the absence of the Palestinians.

The Arab Islamic Rally condemned Baker's visit to the Arab Maghreb and it deplored, in a statement, the blatant bias of the United States and its President, George Bush, toward Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Egypt

Cabinet Discusses Damascus Treaty, Libyan Ties

Endorses Damascus Declaration

NC0608131891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—The Egyptian cabinet met today and endorsed the Damascus Declaration which seeks to further cooperation and coordination between Egypt, Syria, and the six member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC]. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the statement issued by the cabinet:

The cabinet of the Arab Republic of Egypt, having studied the Damascus Declaration on inter-Arab coordination and cooperation signed by the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, the Sultanate of Oman, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Arab Republic of Egypt in Kuwait on 16 July 1991, having been briefed on that declaration by the foreign minister, and having discussed the principles on which it is based, has decided that the declaration is a positive step on the road toward consolidating Arab cooperation as well as a necessary prelude to restoring full Arab solidarity and thereby encouraging all Arab countries to participate in laying down the foundations for a new Arab order based on the principles enshrined in such joint Arab agreements as the Arab League Charter, the joint defense treaty, and the economic cooperation agreement.

The cabinet has approved the declaration in all its clauses.

The cabinet has instructed the foreign minister to notify the other signatories of the Damascus Declaration of this statement and to forward a copy to the Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Opens Borders With Libya

NC0608160291 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] According to Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, the cabinet held a meeting today under the chairmanship of Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and discussed a number of urgent matters concerning the means for achieving the common goals of Egypt and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and for fulfilling both peoples' inspirations. This is in line with the guidelines issued by President Husni Mubarak at the expanded meeting held yesterday morning in Tripoli.

Al-Sharif added that President Mubarak instructed the cabinet this morning to take immediate action to open the borders between Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, effective today, and the cabinet accordingly passed urgent executive measures to this effect.

The cabinet also discussed arrangements for continued coordination and exchange of information between officials of both countries in the areas of security, traffic, customs, health, and agriculture, in a manner commensurate with the mutual interests of Egypt and Libya.

Al-Sharif said that, during the meeting, Prime Minister Sidqi said that the move represents a significant step toward consolidating cooperation, as it concerns the removal of all obstacles facing travel and trade between the two countries.

The cabinet also discussed the outcome of President Mubarak's visit to the Jamahiriyah and the measures taken to reinforce cooperation in the areas of industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, reconstruction, oil, and information.

The cabinet emphasized Egypt's full commitment to the implementation of the ten agreements signed by both countries, noting that these agreements create a foundation for economic integration between the two countries. The cabinet asserted the need to abide by the spirit of these agreements and to confirm the equality of the citizens in both countries regarding ownership of agricultural land and real estate.

Al-Sharif concluded his statement by noting that Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa briefed the cabinet on the Islamic Conference Organization meetings in Istanbul, the consultations that took place on the sidelines of that conference, and the discussions he had with the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers about the security conditions in the Gulf.

Paper Praises Decision To Open Libyan Borders

NC0708065491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 7 Aug 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined "Economic Integration and the Removal of Barriers," AL-JUMHURIYAH today comments on yesterday's cabinet meeting, which discussed removing barriers from the border with fraternal Libya as well as eliminating all obstacles hindering the implementation of the 10 cooperation agreements. The paper says that the meeting reflected Egypt's genuine desire to establish solid foundations for its relations with its Arab sisters so that bilateral cooperation can ultimately serve Arab interests and objectives as well as bilateral interests.

In this respect, Egyptian-Libyan relations have been further consolidated by the frequent exchange of working visits by President Mubarak and brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The desire to build for the future is underlined by the fact that such visits always include tours of agricultural and industrial production sites. Egypt is eager to create the best atmosphere for bilateral cooperation based on economic viability and which can lead to economic integration. In Libya's case, we should add the geographic dimension, the common history, and the close popular ties the two countries share.

The paper emphasizes that all Egyptians and Libyans are pleased with the decision to eliminate all customs measures at the al-Sallum crossing point, which citizens from both countries can now travel through using only their identity cards. What remains for the future is to ensure that efforts are geared toward establishing joint production projects in the fields of agriculture, industry, petroleum, and land reclamation, as such projects will ultimately serve strategic pan-Arab security and fulfill the two countries' aspirations for development, progress, and increased productivity.

Columnist Calls Bush 'New UN Secretary General'

NC0208190991 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 31 Jul 91 p 1

[Philip Jallab column: "Bush, the UN Secretary General"]

[Text] George Bush has become the UN secretary general, and obedience to the UN secretary general is indispensable to respect for Arab and international legitimacy. The new UN secretary general is much better than that silly, boring man who turned the United Nations into a small division of the U.S. State Department.

When the U.S. President makes a decision, he says that it is a UN or Security Council decision. When Yemen's or Cuba's delegate to the UN Security Council dares

state the facts about the blockade, starvation, and annihilation to which the Iraqi people are being subjected, the rest of the esteemed Council members turn to the U.S. delegate and wait for his directives.

The diabolical mass media announce that the UN Security Council insists on imposing sanctions on Saddam Husayn. Have you ever heard of a head of state who suffers personally as a result of sanctions or who is affected by a lack of food, medicine, and other necessities?

All the reports, including the one Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan prepared after touring Iraq, agree that it is the Iraqi people, particularly the children, the widows, and the poor, who are hardest hit by the blockade. Some 6,000 children have already died from hunger and a lack of medicine, and another 170,000 are in danger of suffering the same fate. Meanwhile, the United Nations and its previous secretary general, Perez de Cuellar, do not lift a finger, while the new secretary general, George Bush, is generous enough to announce some concessions for "humanitarian" reasons, provided that guarantees are found to ensure that the revenue resulting from the Bush-authorized sale of Iraqi oil is distributed among the non-Ba'thists and non-Saddamists. Just how this will be done will be one of the many miracles of the new world order!

During the Gulf crisis, it was said that the goal was to liberate Kuwait and deal a blow to Saddam Husayn's regime. It is now evident to anyone willing to understand the truth that the goal is to strike at Iraq as a state and at the Iraqi Army's potential contribution to an Arab force. The Iraqi people themselves have now been targeted.

Meanwhile, those who claim to be Arabs do nothing to make Bush loosen his grip on the Iraqi people. George Bush has shown everyone that he alone can decide whether the blockade will continue until starvation and death prevail or whether a small gap will be opened for the humanitarian reasons for which all U.S. presidents and their friends are famous!

It is a shame that the Arab League, which is the embodiment of Arab failure and disunity, apparently does not consider what is happening to the Iraqi people to be a cause which can bring the Arabs together, even if it is a humanitarian or charitable cause.

An honorable man like Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has been forced to divide his time as Arab League secretary general between those who support every American measure against the Iraqi people and those who demand even more sanctions.

How does the Arab League secretary general see Iraq as a state and as a people? Does he see it as an Arab League member which he—or at least a fact-finding committee—should visit to assess the ongoing and unprecedented disaster there? Or are Iraq and all those who objected to its destruction—and this includes at least half of all Arabs—no longers members of the Arab League?

Has Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid agreed to be secretary general of a league for only half of the Arabs?

Why doesn't the league play a role in putting pressure on those who have broken the so-called UN resolutions and have imposed a blockade on the Iraqi people, instead of turning into a new zero added to many other Arab zeroes?

Columnist Views Peace Talks, Jewish Settlements

NC0508181191 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Aug 91 p 12

["Question Mark" column by 'Abd-al-Salam Dawud]

[Text] If it is true that the international peace conference will hold its first session in October, two months from now, how many new settlements will Israel be able to construct in the Golan Heights and the occupied territories during this period? Furthermore, what could happen during that time which might obstruct the conference? Or how much time will pass before the formalities are over and the conference can begin its real work?

Our patience would never have run out had Israel not planned to settle 3 million Jews in the Arab territories before the end of 1991. The settlement plan has been proceeding quite well, according to Israel's wishes. The Soviet Union has opened the immigration door wide open, and the United States has opened its vaults to finance the expenses of settlement in Israel.

The Arabs will be surprised when the actual negotiations begin and they find out that the issue is not one of land to be returned to its owners by the Jews, but an issue related to millions of Jews who must return to their homeland and must be compensated with billions of dollars for their houses in the occupied territories.

Only then will we realize how precious were the waiting hours and that the time lost was like the land which was lost before.

Palestinian Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC0608205391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Aug (MENA)—A Palestinian delegation comprising PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin; and Hakam Bal'awi, Fatah Central Committee member and Palestinian ambassador to Tunisia, arrived in Cairo this evening. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with a number of Egyptian officials on the current peace efforts in the region to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat Message on U.S.

LD0608135491 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat affirming that the current moves undertaken by the United States are serving only the interests of the Zionist enemy at the expense of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation and the perpetuation of the Zionist occupation and the normalization of its relations with the Arabs.

These moves, he said, aim at the exclusion of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their just cause. He stressed that these moves are only a plot aiming at the Judaization of the Muslim and Christian sacred places in occupied Palestine.

The Palestinian president conveyed to the brother leader in his message the resolve and determination of the Palestinian people to confront this serious plot in defense of their dignity and sanctities, their right to self-determination, and their right to set up their independent state over their land.

President 'Arafat added that the Palestinian people appeal to the conscience and sentiments of the Arab nation to stand by Arab Jerusalem, to protect the Palestinian people, to consolidate their steadfastness and heroic resistance against the gangs of Zionist occupation, and to stress the constant and international legitimacy toward the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Mubarak Reassures al-Qadhdhafi on Border Issues

LD0708094491 Tripoli JANA in English 0814 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 7 [JAMAHIRIAH NEWS AGENCY]—A telephone contact took place between the leader of the revolution and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt, yesterday. President Mubarak re-assured the leader about the abolition of all customs, passports and all border obstruction formalities for the movement of nationals and goods between the two countries.

JANA Political Editor Comments on Baker Tour

LD0608180291 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] JANA's political editor has commented on Baker's tour to the Arab region and analyzed the results expected to be achieved by this dubious tour. He said the political and media circles have followed, during the last five days, the shuttle journeys of the American secretary of state to a number of Arab countries to pass on the new American conspiracy that is being woven against the Arab nation and its future and which aims at liquidating the Palestinian question and aborting the Palestinian generation of anger's revolution that flared up all over Palestine to uproot the alien Zionist body from the Arab homeland.

Regardless of the American circles' justifications for Baker's dubious tour in the Arab region and placing the countries of the Arab Maghreb on the list of his stops on this tour, it remains nothing but an American attempt to involve the Arab Maghreb in playing a role in the new American-Zionist conspiracy against the Arab nation.

JANA's political editor stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah, the stances of which have always been characterized by clarity, is honored at not being one of the stops for James Baker, whose hands stained by the blood of the children of Iraq have not dried yet, and this after his hands were stained with the blood of the children of the generation of anger in occupied Palestine. That is because the Great Jamahiriyah refuses to conspire against her brothers in Palestine, and she refuses to walk on the corpses of the sons of occupied Palestine and the corpses of the children of Iraq.

JANA's political editor called upon the masses of the Arab nation to expose the the new American-Zionist conspiracy that is being woven against the Arab nation, alluding that the aim of this conspiracy is not to find a solution to the Arab-Zionist conflict but to extract more Arab concessions and to push the Arab (?countries) to neglect what is left of dignity and to open a total opportunity for the enemies who give no consideration to religion nor to the convenent of protection.

The political editor concluded his commentary saying: What is happening in Iraq today and what has happened and is happening in Palestine provide conclusive evidence that the enemies of the Arab nation harbor not even a grain of sympathy for it and do not want it to be anything other than humiliated and exhausted. What has happened in Palestine and in Iraq could happen to any other Arab country that threatens the interests of the enemies of the nation and stands against its capture.

Article Analyzes Western 'Falsification'

LD3007164291 Tripoli JANA in English 0817 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Tripoli, 30 al-Nasser [July], Jamahiriya News Agency—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR newspaper issued by the revolutionary committees published a leading article in its today issue under the title "We Will Not Disregard the Facts of History". At the beginning of the article it explained that at the start of the dark ages in Europe, the clever crafty people did not find a better way to impose their control, domination and submitting people to their will better than religion. "They wore its robe, its headdress, carried its cross and raised high their false slogan with which they deceited [as received] the masses. A widespread belief came about that they were the shadow of God on Earth".

What happened was the masses were deceived and followed them into the biggest process of falsification of the reality of religion and the nature of history behind the illusions of those people who aimed at achieving personal targets and aims which religion must be most effective means to use.

The newspaper said that the Europeans who put on the robe of religion which they did not have and were not concerned about in the first place, were submitted in reality to the biggest process of mental-cultural enforced formation man has known. They were turned into slaves to an ideological illusion under the banner of the cross. So there were all the European campaigns, the crusades, which was the newly born of a culture of hostility and racism. Even the Europeans had turned into savage barbarians and into ignorant [as received] who easily can be led under any cross that is raised and for any purpose without knowing that they are forces into a battle they have nothing to do with.

Since the freeing of the slaves, the crumbling of feudalism and the emerging of cities and the phrase "workers" for the first time in history and the European greed opening its eyes upon the East and its raw material to steal and loot until it became by doing so rich and the phrase "the North", emerged with its political and economic concept and with the same racist hostile attitude towards the East in general and towards the Arabs in particular.

The paper went on to say "the European and American mentality, which was based upon that series of wrong basis and by the effect of those forces which are always hostile to the Arab nation and historically responsible for that series of repeated aggressions, cannot absorb any reality or fact about security and peace between it and the Arabs for history confirms this through what the European know in the shape of repeated aggressions and renewed crusades whenever the conditions and reasons were right starting with the campaigns of aggressions to acquire the raw materials during the period of commercial feudalism passing through the period of battles most of which were fought over the Arab land and European hostile reasons and arrived at the aggression of America against Great Jamahiriya and the continued and repeated aggression against the Arab homeland. [sentence as received with no closing quotation marks]

And under feeble excuses. The fact that must not be disregarded or ignored even with what good intentions may occur now is: the aggression against the Arab nation and the Arab homeland is likely to be renewed and repeated and returned in the shape of new campaigns that might carry the cross or carry the reasons by which they claim the rightfulness of their aggression as is happening now the reasons and the outcome of U.S. interventions in the Arab homeland and the internal affair of the Arab nation.... One scene from history starts by the Spaniards' invasion of Tripoli and the cities of the north Arab African region in the year 1510—passing through the period of neo-colonialism and arriving to the edge of U.S. piracy with all its boasting, asserts and confirms in fact that the aggression and colonialism can be repeated and there is no deterence to it except by preparing for it and building the self-capability which can repulse and confront [word indistinct] is also the scene which reflects the most important necessities to which the Arab nation must turn to and the first of which is the need to achieve the Arab unity with all its potential and strategic dimensions....

"We and this fact, find ourselves as an Arab nation which history is full of lively evidence, are facing a historical situation which imposes upon us the need to topple and wipe out all the negative things which had led in the past to setbacks that nearly left this nation to split.... Maybe the most prominent of those negative things is the current regional political reality which was created by serious political differences some of which was linked with the same circles which only yesterday had led its aggressive attack against the Arab homeland and which is reflected by this filthy humiliating panting of some Arab regimes to run to the crusading West and America without any regards to Arab dignity, Arab will and the Arab fateful causes without looking back". The newspaper went on to say that all those wounds inflicted by the hostile campaigns against the Arab homeland and are still inflicting by planting the Zionist entity in the body of this home.... "the Arabs are seekers of peace, security and stability. Before all that they are the messengers of civilization who do not want to live except in peace and in a new world in which the relations of nations prevails, but the forces of evil do not live except by aggression and as a result they will not allow peace to prevail or be achieved nor for security to be brought about and peoples live happily and in harmony....

"We respect today the outstanding relation of friendship which binds us to the European nation and to some of their governments. We are truthfull in our heading with them for an end of goodness and happiness in this world, but we want to confirm that we will not disregard once more the facts of history which confirms to us that aggression will be repeated and that the years 1510, 1911 and 1986 can be dates for the foreseeable future.... For this reason we refused to fall prey for any hateful crusading aggression or victim to any international tension or be driven slaves and captives as happen to us only yesterday....

"It is the history lesson then which teaches us that others will never respect us unless we are equal to them".

Morocco

Armed Forces Launch Operations Against Polisario

LD0608220191 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 6 Aug 91

["Statement" issued by "government spokesman;" date, place issued not given]

[Text] The security wall has been built inside Moroccan territories far from the Moroccan Sahara border to enable the Armed Forces to carry out their defensive duty in a manner that does not (?infringe) in any way on the territories of neighboring countries Algeria and Mauritania. The demilitarized zone between the defensive line and the line of the Moroccan Sahara has always remained under the control and vigilance of the Royal Armed Forces units positioned in the Sahara.

Precise and corresponding information provided recently by those who have rejoined Morocco after having fled from the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saqia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front ranks indicated that the latter used to infiltrate trained and armed elements through this demilitarized zone with a mission to carry out terrorist operations inside the Moroccan Sahara to undermine and delay preparations for the self-determination referendum and to prevent holding it amid safe circumstances.

Because of Morocco's responsibility to ensure security and safety through the Moroccan Sahara, the Royal Armed Forces have carried out and are still carrying out combing and clearing operations in the demilitarized zone.

Western Sahara

Ambassador Comments on Moroccan Air Raid

LD0608141691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Following the attack that the Moroccan Air Force launched against the town of Tifariti, which lies inside the liberated territories of the Saharan Republic 100 km from the Moroccan defense wall, the national radio contacted the Saharan ambassador in Algeria this morning, and he made this statement:

[Begin recording] [Ambassador] First, brother, we were surprised by this illogical attack. It is illogical because it came at a time when everyone is calling for calmness, wisdom, and self-control. This atmosphere marks the start of implementing the UN plan for peace in this region. At the level of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saqia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front, we decided several months ago on a military truce to create a suitable and calm atmosphere for the start of the peace process. We were surprised when the other party launched this attack, especially an attack against a town whose entire population is civilian—a special case of civilians suffering from the effects of a harsh summer. They have no refuge other than Tifariti to obtain drinking water because that area is very arid and the only source of water there is in Tifariti.

[Unidentified reporter] We would like to ask you the following question: In your opinion, what is the secret aim behind the Moroccan operation?

[Ambassador] We can find no justification for this operation. In answer to your question, concerning its ramifications on the plan, the peace plan, we hope that this operation is an isolated case and that it will have no effects that will hinder this very important and essential matter on which we and Morocco have agreed; that is, the referendum in Western Sahara in order to end this conflict.

[Reporter] Ambassador, do we understand from this that the Polisario Front, starting from this stance you expressed, does not intend to review its position with respect to the cease-fire?

[Ambassador] We have decided on the truce, and we have decided on it for a reason: to create a suitable atmosphere to start implementing the UN plan. This plan is still guiding us, and it is still a basic aim for us. I say with regret that this operation is unjustified. Of course, our fighters defended the innocent civilians and during this operation they downed the aircraft carrying Captain (Rakaydi), deputy commander of the Moroccan Air Force in Western Sahara, and succeeded in capturing him. [end recording]

Second Attack Reported

LD0608224791 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] A statement by the Saharan Ministry of Information announced today that yesterday the Moroccan Air Force had raided anew Saharans' positions in the Saharan city of Tifariti. It is the second raid by the Moroccan Air Force, as the day before yesterday it had strafed the same city. The Saharan statement said it is believed these two raids are the beginning of a Moroccan plan to resume war in the Western Sahara.

An AFP report cited a spokesman for the Moroccan Government as having said that Moroccan forces were now conducting combing operations in the no-man's-land between the defensive wall and the Moroccan-Saharan border.

Bahrain

Amir Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

JN0608200891 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Manama, Aug 6 (GNA)—H.H. the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received a written message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi containing an invitation to attend the Libyan people's celebrations marking the end of the first phase of work in Libya's great industrial river to be inaugurated by the end of this month.

The message also included Libya's point of view on a number of current issues and developments of concern to the region and the Arab world.

The message was conveyed by member of the Libyan Revolution's Command Council and Inspector General of the Libyan Armed Forces Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi during a meeting with H.H. the Amir here today.

Present at the audience were Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah and Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Bin-Muhammad Al Khalifah.

The Libyan official left here later after a visit to Bahrain as part of a regional tour.

He was seen off by Bahraini minister of labor and social affairs.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

LD0608170991 London KUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 6 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, his highness the amir of the State of Kuwait, received at 1700 today Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council of the sisterly Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who delivered to his highness a letter from his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The meeting was attended by Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim; Ibrahim Muhammad al-Shatti, director of the Amir's Office; Ibrahim 'Ali al-Musa, director of the Arab homeland department at the Foreign Ministry; and the Libyan ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Qatar

Amir Receives Invitation From al-Qadhdhafi

JN0708105791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Doha, 7 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a written message from Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi inviting his highness to attend the celebrations on the completion of the first phase of the manmade river in Libya, at the end of this month.

The message was delivered to His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, in Doha today, by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Revolution Command Council member and inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces, who is currently visiting Doha as part of his tour to deliver similar messages to regional leaders.

Saudi Arabia

Soviet Ambassador Tarasov Interviewed

PM0608114191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 91 p 3

[Interview with Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet ambassador to Saudi Arabia, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bunyan] How do you view the importance of the presence of the Soviet Union's first embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after 52 years of frozen diplomatic relations between Moscow and Riyadh?

[Tarasov] I believe it is a great honor for me to be the Soviet Union's first ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after all that period, which did not mean that there were no relations between the two countries' governments. True enough, the nonexistence of diplomatic missions obstructed the dialogue between the two governments, but as far as we are concerned, the decision made last autumn by President Gorbachev and King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy places, to resume diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level is a very important and big step toward establishing further contacts between the two countries. It reflects mutual trust between our two countries in terms of consultations over matters of common interest, regional issues, and bilateral relations. The establishment of diplomatic relations serves the lofty aims of expanding the ties of cooperation and understanding so as to serve the two countries' governments and the two peoples' interests.

[Al-Bunyan] How do you see the future of economic cooperation, trade, and investment ties between the two countries?

[Tarasov] We believe—and this is not my own view, but the Soviet Government's view—that there are broad and promising prospects for establishing strong relations in the economic sphere. And although we are still at the stage of establishing these relations, we feel that there is mutual interest in developing economic relations to higher levels, because both countries are seeking to develop international economic cooperation without restrictions or conditions. And we are now passing through an important and very difficult phase. But we are leaving the door wide open for cooperation with all states and with whoever wants to participate in the economic perestroyka process in the Soviet Union, as we have taken all the steps and measures to encourage international cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bunyan] Have you in practice started to activate trade and economic exchange operations between the Soviet Union and the Kingdom?

[Tarasov] The Soviet foreign trade minister visited Saudi Arabia last October and held talks with officials here, including the Saudi trade minister, who was invited to visit Moscow with a Saudi business delegation. Discussions and consultations were held during the visit on many matters with a view to developing and bolstering economic relations. But unfortunately the Gulf crisis erupted and conditions led to the postponement of many of the ideas discussed. We will revert to the activation of trade relations between the two countries. At the same time, we welcome and encourage Saudi business visits to the Soviet Union to explore the opportunities available there, whether with regard to imports, investment, or joint enterprises. I must point out that the two countries are among the biggest oil producers in the world, thus we have common interest in discussing cooperation in the sphere of producing and exporting oil. As for financial cooperation, there are broad prospects for the establishment of such cooperation. And by the way, we appreciate the Saudi Government's providing an investment loan to the Soviet Union. This represents a positive embodiment of the future of that cooperation, which we hope will develop and flourish in the two countries' interests. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bunyan] Aleksandr Bessmertnykh recently visited the Zionist entity. Is there any intention of restoring diplomatic relations between Moscow and Tel Aviv, or is the restoration of these relations conditional upon settlement of the Palestinian issue?

[Tarasov] The establishment of diplomatic relations between one state and another is not an aim in itself. These are traditions between states for the sake of contacts. Thus we look at the existence of diplomatic relations between one government and another as a natural thing in our age. This is because there have to be diplomatic ties and contacts among all world governments. We view the subject of restoring our diplomatic ties with Israel as being linked to the initiation of the peace process in the region. And if we find that the establishment of such relations represents an important element in the implementation of the peace process, we will establish these relations, but if the peace process does not take place, we will not restore our relations with Tel Aviv. The Soviet foreign minister's visit took place within the framework of a tour that included the region's states: Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and Israel because of its being one of the region's states and a possible participant in the peace conference. The aim of the visit to Israel was primarily to persuade the Israelis to display more flexibility and to avoid placing obstacles in the way of convening the peace conference. So the future of restoring diplomatic ties with Israel depends on developments in the field of a settlement that brings about peace in the Middle East region.

[Al-Bunyan] What is your position on Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel and their settlement in Jerusalem?

[Tarasov] Our position is clear. But do not forget that there are international agreements under which citizens are entitled to move from one state to another. And we differentiate between the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel and the Israeli authorities' attempts to settle Jews from all states in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. We oppose and condemn such measures and regard them as a breach of international laws. This is why in February of last year the Soviet Union hastened to submit to the United Nations ideas designed to prevent Jewish settlement in the occupied Arab territories. So our position is very clear: We are against the settlement of Jewish emigrants in the occupied Arab territories and regard it as a major obstacle to the peace process in the region. We demand the removal of these obstacles and call on the Israeli Government to stop pursuing these measures. [passage omitted]

Yemen

General People's Congress Concludes Session

JN0608121591 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The Standing Committee of the General People's Congress [GPC] yesterday concluded its 11th session under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the GPC. It issued a final statement urging speedy acceptance of the election law and the administrative divisions law, and called for the formation of a higher election commission. The statement also calls for preparing voters records to pave the way for the country to move out of the transitional period, in pursuance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, and with a view toward building a modern state.

The statement calls on all parties and political organizations to cooperate with the government to overcome the difficulties it is facing, and to concentrate primarily on taking urgent measures to address important issues. It urges that import licenses at present be given only for essential goods, and that action to protect and stabilize

the price of the rial and curb the rise in the price of the dollar, as a result of speculation, be taken, as this leads to higher commodity prices. [passage omitted]

The statement salutes the steadfastness of the Palestinian Arab people and their valiant intifadah in the occupied territories. It renews full support, at all levels, for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital and under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

The statement notes the suffering of the Iraqi people and the innocent children there as a result of the fierce blockade by the forces of the international alliance. It stresses the need for our people and all Arabs to play an effective role to end the unjust sanctions and lift the economic blockade, especially since Iraq has observed all international resolutions, and to urge the Security Council's five permanent member states to make human conscience govern the establishment of a new world order, characterized by security, stability, and peaceful coexistence among nations.

The Standing Committee's statement expresses solidarity with the fraternal and friendly peoples in the Horn of Africa, and stresses support for these people who are maintaining their unity, sovereignty, and national independence; solving their problems peacefully and democratically; and giving the language of mind and logic precedence over the language of force and violence, so as to maintain peace and security.

President Salih Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN0608145891 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The message deals with relations and the results of the Soviet-U.S. summit held in Moscow between Presidents Gorbachev and Bush.

Ivashchenko, Soviet ambassador to Sanaa, delivered the message when the brother president received him today.

Reports on Plutonium Production, Inspection Team

Clarification of Amount Produced

JN0608202591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1917 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Iraq has refuted the allegations which accompanied Iraq's making public its possession of tiny amounts of plutonium. An official spokesman at the Foreign Ministry said tonight that Iraq announced on 27 April this year—not 27 July as reported by some news agencies—that Iraqi scientists prepared a quantity of plutonium at its research laboratories.

The spokesman told INA that it was the Iraqis who listed the quantities of plutonium solutions and oxides in the materials list as part of Iraq's commitment to help inspection teams complete their work. He said: The amount of plutonium contained in these solutions and oxides does not exceed 2.7 grams.

The official spokesman explained that all the fourth inspection team did was wire the list to the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] headquarters in Vienna after the list was handed to them by the Iraqi side. The spokesman commented on attempts to exaggerate matters and to claim that Iraq was working to produce a nuclear weapon. He said: The IAEA and any specialist know well that such small quantities can only be part of laboratory research work and that if such quantities are accumulated to produce one weapon, over 100 years would be needed (?to produce) a sufficient quantity to make such a weapon.

The spokesman expressed amazement at the concern voiced by some of those interested in the issue. He said: We do not know the reason behind the concern of Mr. Calucci [name as received], assistant chief of the special committee, as reported by news agencies, about Iraqi scientists' ability to prepare this substance, which can be prepared at any radiochemical laboratory.

The spokesman wondered why Mr. Calucci was not concerned when Iraq first made an announcement about plutonium in April this year.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman highlighted the appreciation shown by the head of the fourth nuclear inspection team for Iraq's publicization of these amounts, which he considered an expression of Iraq's goodwill. He wondered why the U.S. and British representatives at the Security Council do not take a similar position. Why do they take a contrary stand, as reported by the news agencies?

He affirmed that these positions are further evidence that the stance taken by these countries are prepared beforehand and are aggressive to Iraq, regardless of how positive its positions are.

Team Leader Comments on Findings

NC0608115891 Paris AFP in English 1145 GMT 6 Aug 91

[By Maher Chmaytelli]

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 6 (AFP)—The fourth U.N. nuclear inspection team to Iraq remains dissatisfied as authorities have still failed to respond to most of the experts' demands, the mission leader told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Tuesday. "We have asked a large number of questions but the answers and data have not yet come for most of them," said David Kay of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The 28-person team comprising members from nine countries arrived in Baghdad on July 28 and is expected to leave Saturday. Kay said they had begun making surprise inspections Sunday, but did not disclose which facilities were visited. "We made (four) surprise visits in the last two days ... and we had no problem in gaining access to the facilities," he said prior to leaving his hotel on another tour.

IAEA inspectors including Kay had encountered difficulties during their second visit to Iraq in June, when authorities refused to grant access to several sites. On one occasion, soldiers shot over the heads of the officials as they tried to photograph vehicles suspected of containing nuclear equipment.

Western nations condemned Iraq's violation of U.N. resolution 687, which set the ceasefire terms for the Gulf war and calls on Baghdad to reveal all its non-conventional arms facilities for destruction by U.N. experts. The United States, Britain and France threatened renewed aerial attacks on the sites unless Iraq proved completely cooperative.

Kay said his team had not been able to confirm U.S. reports that Iraq possessed 44 kilograms (97 pounds) of highly enriched uranium, adding "we are still looking. We don't rule it out."

"It is clear that it is not a peaceful program in terms of its intent. And we are trying to assess the progress they made," he said. Iraq has repeatedly said it only developed 500 grams (1.1 pounds) of lightly enriched uranium. IAEA experts estimate that 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of the weapons-grade chemical are needed to produce an atomic bomb.

Kay did not reveal whether Iraq had been capable of producing a nuclear bomb prior to the start of the Gulf crisis on August 2, 1990. He voiced concern that Baghdad may be capable of building weapons with plutonium, a fissionable material of which it has admitted secretly producing three grams (one ounce).

Kay said the team was primarily looking into three methods of enrichment. Iraq had advanced furthest with a technique called electromagnetic separation of isotopes (EMS) started in the early eighties, he said. "Iraqis also

concentrated on a chemical method designed by the French," but which Iraq managed to improve, Kay added. The final method is centrifugation, which Iraq started between 1986 and 1987 and has since improved.

Biological experts from the delegation Monday visited the first biological facility identified by Baghdad and team leader David Kelly said they had made progress in their search for bacteriological weapons.

"We have made some progress today. I think the United Nations should be the first to know about (it)," he said on returning from the Salman Pak plant, 35 kilometers (23 miles) south of Baghdad. Iraq on Monday admitted to having a bacteriological weapons program but said all projects had been frozen in the fall of 1990.

Team Visits Babylon

JN0208165091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1617 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Al-Hillah, 2 Aug (INA)—The members of the fourth international nuclear inspection team visited the historic city of Babylon today. During the visit, the delegation visited the various archeological and cultural sites of the city and saw the digging and maintenance work taking place there.

Ramadan Leaves for Amman With Oral Message

JN0708092891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, left for Amman this morning on a visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he has an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal. The message deals with bilateral relations and the importance of continuing joint action, in addition to the delicate situation the Arab nation is currently experiencing, particularly the continuation of aggression against Iraq through the continued illegitimate and unjust economic blockade, and the attempts to liquidate the Palestine question at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people.

The vice president added: The seriousness of the stage the Arab nation is experiencing necessitates serious action by the fraternal Arab states, and continuous consultations among its leaders and officials to reach practical stands capable of facing challenges as a prelude to achieve an Arab-Islamic cooperation to defend the rights of Arabs and Muslims, on whom the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic plotting is being intensified.

Taha Yasin Ramadan stressed that [words indistinct] necessitate the adoption of practical measures to lift the economic blockade from Iraq's people, especially since the continuation of this blockade is considered a serious action unprecedented in history, a clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the principles of human rights, and a premeditated aggression against 18 million Iraqis.

Taha Yasin Ramadan noted that the Arab and Islamic leaders' role in calling, in a loud voice, for the lifting of the economic blockade from Iraq's people is a humanitarian responsibility and a historic trust to make the aggressors know their limits and to prevent the law of the jungle from dominating the world through the laws of the aggressor tyrants, who have no respect for international legitimacy and international charters, norms, and laws.

Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed his confidence that the Arab masses and the Muslims are aware of the dimensions of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic scheme and the continuation of the conspiracy and war against Iraq through the continuation of the economic blockade on its people, which coincided with the suspect efforts led by the United States to entrench the Zionist occupation of Arab territories. He affirmed that the future will reveal that the free Arabs and honest Muslims will resist this conspiracy, reject trusteeship, subservience, and capitulation, and defend the legitimate Arab rights and the Arabs' existence, future, and destiny.

Ibrahim, Iran's Rajavi on Iranian 'Interference'

JN0508102691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Aug (INA)—'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, has received Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council.

At the meeting, the two sides exchanged viewpoints on the current situation in the region, and condemned the Iranian regime's interference in Iraqi internal affairs. Mas'ud Rajavi, in the name of the Iranian people and the Iranian resistance, described this continued interference by the Iranian regime as being an explicit move against peace and against the higher interests of the Iranian people.

Interior Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid attended the meeting.

Rajavi Meets Information Minister

JN0608150291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1410 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today received Mr. Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian National Resistance Council.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and condemned the slanders propagated by the regime in Tehran against the Iranian resistance, especially its presence in Iraq.

Mr. Mas'ud Rajavi said during the meeting that the rule of the mullahs in Tehran does not want to establish a permanent peace or set up relations of good-neighborliness with Iraq.

Sudanese Minister Says Visit 'Very Successful'

JN0208165691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and information, left Baghdad today after a one-week visit to Iraq. Before departing Baghdad, the Sudanese minister told INA that his visit to Iraq was very successful and discussions concentrated on the scope of cooperation in culture, information, and other areas, with the objective of expanding cooperation to serve the interests of the two fraternal people.

He declared that numerous Sudanese delegations are expected to visit Iraq in the future due to the results of his visit to Iraq with the objective of bolstering and expanding the scope of cooperation.

The Sudanese minister stressed that Iraq's human resources are capable of confronting the dangers and threats surrounding it. He called on Arab countries to take positive steps to confront the imperialist hegemony and stand alongside Iraq.

Mr. 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and education, called on the world to exert serious efforts to break the economic siege imposed on Iraq. He pointed out that the insistence of the Western countries on not allowing Iraq to export its oil and use its frozen assets starves the Iraqi people contrary to all human values.

The Sudanese minister called on Arab, Islamic, and humanitarian organizations to seriously think about the sufferings of the Iraqi people who are trying to realize their legitimate right of sufficiency and development.

During his visit, the Sudanese minister conveyed a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of National Salvation Revolution Command Council in Sudan. He also held talks with Mr. Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, which resulted in signing the cooperation protocol in the field of culture and information.

Iraqi, Soviet Parliamentarians on Lifting Embargo

JN0408123791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians have called for lifting the economic embargo on Iraq and for nonintervention in Iraq's internal affairs under any cover or slogan. In a joint statement issued today following the discussions between the Iraqi National Assembly and the Soviet parliamentary delegation which represents the Soyuz parliamentary block at the Supreme Soviet, they condemned the positions of the United States and some European states who used slogans of democracy, freedom, and human rights as a cover for passing aggressive intentions—that are exposed to all the good people in the world—with the aim of launching their aggression on Iraq and maintaining the economic embargo.

Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians condemned the new world order which is based on one country's monopoly of international relations and which gives one country hegemony over international policies thus causing a flaw in the concept of balance and instability in international relations. The two sides stressed the need to resolve world problems based on equal moral principles so as not to be selective.

They stressed the need to resolve the Palestine question and to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people. They also emphasized that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation between the countries' parliaments in the field of information in order to promote relations in all fields. They also agreed to continue relations and to have visits between parliamentarians of the two countries and to coordinate with each other in international parliamentary conferences.

UN Envoy Protests U.S. Airspace 'Violations'

JN0208170591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. warplanes continued violations of Iraqi airspace for surveillance and harassment. Iraq's permament representative to the United Nations said in a memorandum addressed to the UN secretary general that U.S. air activity inside Iraqi airspace for 31 July-1 August 1991 totalled 22 air sorties divided over nine two-plane formations, and one four-plane formation. He added that the U.S. air activity concentrated on the regions of Dahuk, Mosul, al-'Amadiyah, and Irbil at low and medium altitudes at a speed of 700 to 900 km per hour.

London's AL-HAYAH Says Saddam To 'Step Down'

NC0408163891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Iraqi sources in London said today that the tyrant's regime intends to make changes in a bid to alleviate international pressure and end the blockade imposed on the tyrant and his regime. Citing the sources, AL-HAYAH reported that the tyrant would step down and be succeeded by 'Izzat Ibrahim. The tyrant Saddam would, however, remain the Ba'th Party leader, according to these sources.

Saddam Asks Ninawa Citizens To Help Needy

JN0608103691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0715 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has emphasized that when the Iraqis recalled the spirit of their history, which is replete with faith and linked with all the glorious meanings that God wanted, they said: No to injustice, no to blasphemy, and yes to faith, hence they suffered all that they are suffering today. At an audience yesterday, granted to a delegation representing the people of Ninawa Governorate, his excellency called for social integration and said that citizens in every quarter, village, and city should extend help to those in need. He said he who extends help in his own area would, in fact, be extending that help to all of Iraq, adding that what we are passing through today is a cloud linked to a great glory and a high status in the eyes of God for all believers.

Construction, Repair Work in Governorates Reported

JN0208162291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1354 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The Governorates, 2 Aug (INA)—Reconstruction and rebuilding activities are increasing in Iraq's governorates to rebuild what was destroyed by the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression, paid mercenaries from beyond the borders, and demagogues.

The al-Kufah cement factory in al-Najaf Governorate started production at a capacity of 3,000 tonnes a day after its three production lines became operational. The technical committee for renovating and developing al-Haydariyah shrine has finished maintenance of one of the golden portals inside the tomb of Imam 'Ali. [passage omitted]

In al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, the Taslujah cement factory has begun to provide citizens with cement in accordance with the specifications of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals. At the same time, the factory's engineering and technical units are continuing maintenance and operations of all production lines to achieve a production capacity of 3,200 tonnes per day.

In al-Qadisiyah Governorate, the governorate's Department of Roads and Bridges finished construction of two bridges—al-Ibrahim and al-Nakarah—in Ghammas subdistrict. The first bridge is 56 kms long, 8 meters wide, and can take up to 100 tonnes. The second bridge is 50 meters long, 4 meters wide, and can carry 5 tonnes.

In the autonomous region, reconstruction and building increased by 91 percent in the governorates of Irbil, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Dahuk. [passage omitted]

During the past four months in al-Muthanna Governorate, the agriculture and irrigation branch repaired and made operational 25 artesian wells in southern arid regions. At the same time, engineering and technical teams continue their maintenance and repair of 27 other wells. [passage omitted]

In Salah-al-Din Governorate, the northern Tikrit bridge, 25 meters long and 8 meters wide, has been finished. [passage omitted]

Opposition Conference Concludes Washington Meeting

NC0308143891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition concluded its conference in Washington by announcing its proposals for Iraq's future system of government. These proposals include political, economic, and social programs that may provide the basis for Iraq's future constitution. The conference participants reaffirmed the need to overthrow the despotic Saddam Husayn regime and renounce its dictatorial methods. The opposition stressed that Iraq will not emerge from its international isolation until the current regime is removed from power.

The opposition's political program calls for upholding Iraq's national unity and territorial integrity and supports freedom of political parties and the press. It demands an end to military intervention in politics and recommends that this principle be enshrined in the new constitution.

The Iraqi opposition's economic program calls for lifting the international sanctions against Iraq, which were the result of Saddam Husayn's policies. The program also urges that the country's future economic policy be based on a market economy. The social program calls for rebuilding Iraqi society and guaranteeing freedom of religion.

The conference also urged American officials to come to the aid of the Iraqi people by working to convince the United Nations to allow part of Iraq's frozen assets to be used to purchase food and medicine and to supervise their distribution to the Iraqi people. The opposition called on American officials to help bring Saddam Husayn to trial for the crimes he committed and to work for the passage of an international resolution demanding his arrest and trial as a war criminal.

At the conclusion of its two-day conference, the Iraqi opposition approved the creation of a 21-member executive command committee, which will follow up on these decisions and coordinate action among the Iraqi opposition groups based outside the country.

Opposition Action Committee Meets in Damascus

NC0408164791 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The joint action committee of the Iraqi opposition forces and members of the joint action committee of Iraqi organizations and movements held a meeting in

Damascus today. The conferees discussed the committee's activities in the previous stage. A statement issued at the end of meeting said the conferees discussed ways to promote the committee's actions inside Iraq. The conferees also dealt with the preparations required for the next conference of the Iraqi opposition forces.

Opposition on Suspending Regime's ICO Membership

NC0308155891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Iraqi opposition has called for suspending the tyrant regime's membership in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] and for condemning the regime's policy and atrocities against the Iraqi people. In a memorandum sent to the ICO foreign ministers conference, the joint action committee of the Iraqi opposition forces urged the conference to send an international team to investigate human rights abuses in Iraq and to bring Saddam Husayn to trial as a war criminal. The memorandum said that the dictatorial regime does not represent the Iraqi people.

New Deportees From Kuwait Arrive 3 Aug

JN0408064791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Al-Basrah, 3 Aug (INA)—A new group of Iraqi and Arab deportees arrived in the area of Safwan, al-Basrah Governorate, today after they had been released from Kuwaiti prisons. A responsible source at the International Committee of the Red Cross told an INA correspondent in al-Basrah that the new group of deportees includes 247 citizens: 40 Iraqis; 88 Jordanians; and 119 citizens without nationality, those referred to in Kuwait as "stateless," including a group of women and children. [passage omitted]

Fleeing Officers Report 'Large-Scale Arrests'

PM0708093991 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Aug 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Republican Guard Officers Fleeing to Iran"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed Iranian sources have revealed to SAWT AL-KUWAYT that Iraqi military personnel have continued seeking refuge on Iranian territory since the uncovering last month of an attempt to destroy Saddam Husayn and his ruling clique in Iraq. The sources pointed out that a new group of officers, including an officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel, arrived in the Sardshat [as transliterated] area on the Iranian border. These officers informed the Iranians of the occurrence of large-scale arrests among Republican Guard ranks. They also spoke about the arrest of some old officers and corps commanders who took part in the Iraq-Iran war, including Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd-al-Rashid and former Chief of Staff 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal.

Operations Against Troops, News Agency Office

NC0408061891 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 0430 GMT 4 Aug 91

["Statement" issued by the "command of the revolutionary committees of the people's forces;" date, place issued not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "If you will aid God, He will aid you, and plant your feet firmly." [Koranic verse]

Our valiant mujahidin continued to pursue the centers of 'Aflaqite [after 'Aflaq, founder of Ba'th Party] aggression and chase the regime's mercenaries and enemies of the people. Our valiant revolutionaries' activities were as follows:

1. A group of our valiant mujahidin attacked a convoy of military vehicles in the area of [word indistinct] carrying 33 Saddam regime soldiers; 30 were killed, and the remainder were taken prisoner. This convoy of vehicles belonged to the 34th Division headquartered in Ba'qubah.

2. Another group of our valiant mujahidin attacked the building of the news agency of the mercenary Saddam information department in Baghdad. They opened automatic weapons fire in daylight from their vehicle, leaving a large number of dead and wounded of the regime's mercenaries.

God bless our valiant mujahidin. Carry out more operations until final victory is achieved, God willing.

Casualties Result From Unexploded Bombs

JN0608144091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1308 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Aug (INA)—Dr. Shawqi Sabri Murqus, first under secretary of the Health Ministry, declared 608 civilians martyred or injured by unexploded bombs dropped by U.S.-Atlantic- Zionist aircraft during their aggressive raids on residential districts and civilian establishments in Iraq. In a statement to INA, the under secretary said that among the victims of these bombs are three martyrs and four injured from fraternal Jordan.

He affirmed that civilian installations, establishments, and houses sustained huge material losses as a result of the explosions. On 22 May, he declared that dozens of Iraqi citizens, especially children, had been hit as a result of the explosion of cluster bombs dropped by the aircraft that took part in the aggression.

Kurdish Commentary on Regime's 'Organized Terror'

NC0508200491 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1652 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Station commentary: "The Iraqi Authorities Are Continuing Their Racist and Inhuman Practices Against the Kurdish Citizens in Karkuk"]

[Text] While (?talks) are continuing between the Kurdistan Front delegation and a government delegation to reach a final agreement that would end to the abnormal tension and situation and would stop the racist practices and policies in Kurdistan represented by the [words indistinct], threats, and deportation, the security authorities and units from the Iraqi Army are continuing to commit inhuman crimes against the Kurdish and non-Arab citizens in Karkuk. Their aim is to force these citizens to leave the city so that they can continue to Arabize and change its [words indistinct] to serve the previous racist policies which the authorities are endeavoring to implement thoroughly and quickly.

According to reports we have received from Karkuk, terrorism, repression, and random arrests of Kurdish citizens are continuing to this moment. The reports also said huge reinforcements of military vehicles, soldiers, and attack and defense units were seen inside and around Karkuk and also [word indistinct] around al-Sulaymaniyah. The reports added that Karkuk is in a true state of war.

Against whom is this massing of the military and security reinforcements? Are they against the forces of the coalition countries or some other countries? If this is the case, how then can these massive military preparations be reconciled with Iraq's unconditional submission to all the resolutions and orders of the coalition countries and the United Nations? Therefore, the massing of these Iraqi military forces and secret police in Karkuk, particularly in the wake of the large-scale campaign of arrests to which Kurdish citizens are being subjected, confirms that these practices and policies are only aimed at terrorizing the citizens, forcing them to leave their houses and properties, and indicating to them that the authorities will not allow the Kurds to live in their city of Karkuk peacefully, even when the negotiations are continuing.

In a previous commentary, we said that one important factor that must be considered in these circumstances is the importance of restoring the trust between the masses and the present regime after long years of terrorism, repression, and racist policies that were pursued by the repressive organs against the citizens. Restoration of this lost trust must be by done through deeds and not through words and honeyed promises that have no effect anymore, but [word indistinct] the past practices will undoubtedly deepen the crisis, complicate matters, and place constant obstacles before the ongoing dialogue to find a final solution for the Kurdish problem in Iraq. Had the intentions been sincere, the authorities would not have arrested women and the elderly in Karkuk, tortured them, and forced them to leave their houses [words indistinct] in prisons and detention camps. Will these practices, whether in Karkuk or in any other city of Kurdistan, encourage the Kurdish refugees to return to the cities or will it make the [words indistinct] to secure areas away from government repression as happened recently after the incidents in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah?

The deteriorating security situation in Karkuk and the terrorist practices carried out by the (?government) organs against innocent citizens [words indistinct] and could not serve peace and stability in Kurdistan. Consequently, they would not serve the ongoing negotiations process to reach a final agreement and to solve the Kurdish problem peacefully. The massing of military forces, backed by equipment and tanks, around the Kurdish cities creates doubt and suspicion in the Iraqi leadership's (?intentions). It also creates an unnecessary atmosphere of [word indistinct] and tension that would not be in the regime's favor. [Words indistinct] in these sensitive circumstances. Karkuk and other Kurdish cities must enjoy peace and tranquillity and all their inhabitants must return to them in dignity and without the policies of Arabization, (?deportation), and discrimination. [Words indistinct] in Karkuk so that it will really become a city of national fraternity in Iraq and not a center for racism and organized terror.

Levi Briefs Knesset Members on Peace Process

U.S. To Confer on Promises to Arabs

TA0608185691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister David Levi today said that the U.S. Administration has agreed that all the understandings reached with Israel will be solidified in a written and signed document of understanding that will be binding. Levi also said that Israel would be informed of any promises the United States gave the Arab countries. Foreign Minister Levi made these remarks upon leaving a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin recording] [Ahime'ir] Foreign Minister David Levi reiterated today that the PLO would not be a partner to the negotiations with Israel under any conditions. Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni [Tehiya] asserted that Israel is already conducting indirect negotiations with the PLO. Ha'etzni said that this is the true nature of Secretary of State Baker's trip to Tunisia. However, Foreign Minister Levi reiterated:

[Levi] We have agreed that all the understandings between Israel and the United States will be consolidated, summarized, and signed in a joint document. The team that will deal with this matter is due to arrive any day, and the respective heads of state will endorse the paper. Any promise or understanding given to any party whatsoever will be issued with the prior knowledge of Israel. This is the U.S. commitment. [passage omitted]

[Ahime'ir] As for the settlement of Eshkolot, in the southern Hebron hills, the foreign minister said:

[Levi] We are not violating any commitment to any party. We made no commitment to stop the settlements. The United States is aware of this. There is a standing disagreement, but Israel has not broken any commitment. We insist on our right and we have explained this to the United States and to everyone. The civilianization of such a location is under the authority of the defense minister, and as far as I know he agreed to the matter. [end recording]

On Understandings With U.S.

TA0608165591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpts] At today's session of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister David Levi said that the United States had promised Israel that it had not made any deals with the Syrians or given them any promises or assurances. As for the Golan Heights, the Americans said that this was a matter for negotiations, while refraining from adopting any position regarding the borders. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

[Begin recording] [Nir] David Levi stressed that the United States had reiterated its adherence to the commitment President Ford gave former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. According to this commitment, Israel's security needs would be taken into consideration in any debate with Syria over the borders. Levi said that we are apparently witnessing a significant change in al-Asad's positions; however, not all his positions had changed. Levi pointed out that Secretary of State Baker had told him that he would oppose removing Syria from the list of countries that sponsor terrorism. Nor is al-Asad willing to release the Syrian Jewish community. Nobody could call Syria a lover of Zion, Levi said.

The foreign minister enumerated details to the committee on the understandings reached with the United States, as well as the understanding that the Soviet Union would establish full diplomatic relations with Israel before the peace conference began. Levi devoted a long time to a report on visit to Egypt and the expected improvement in bilateral relations, economic ties, agriculture, tourism, and the reciprocal visits by Cabinet ministers. [passage omitted]

As for Baker's visit to North Africa, amid the impression that he is conducting an indirect dialogue with the PLO, Levi said that Baker had not deviated from the understandings. He is trying to form the list of Palestinians according to the agreements with Israel, Levi said, adding that Baker should be given a chance.

On Libyan Status in Talks

TA0608131891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said that his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, did not discuss with him the possibility of Libya's having observer status at the peace conference. In Algiers yesterday, Baker said that the idea was acceptable to the United States and explained that it was compatible with Israel's position. Minister Levi clarified that it was agreed with the United States that Israel would be informed of any promises made by the United States or by any other parties. The United States and Israel agree, Levi said, that the PLO is not a partner in the political process.

Commenting on the establishment of the new settlement in the southern Hebron hills, Levi said that the United States is aware of Israel's position that it has the right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. Responding to our correspondent Yo'el Nir's query as to Levi's personal opinion regarding the settlements, the minister replied: What kind of questions are these? Am I not a member of the government?

Baker's Maghreb Trip Causing 'Discontent'

TA0708100691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 7 Aug 91 p 2

[Report by Moti Bassok]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Senior officials at the Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry yesterday found it difficult to conceal their discontent with Baker's trip to North Africa. In their estimation, Baker conducted talks with the PLO through the mediation of his interlocutors, contrary to his promise to Israel. The talks concerned the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the regional conference, as well as other issues connected with the October conference. For the time being it was decided in Israel not to rock the boat over this issue. On remarks attributed to Syrian ruler Hafiz al-Asad to the effect that he is willing to demilitarize the Golan Heights and to introduce international supervisory forces into areas evacuated by Israel, political figures said that al-Asad has not yet uttered the word peace, and it is too early to deal with issues of substance. In any event, that issue will be discussed in the direct Israeli-Syrian talks.

The possibility was not ruled out in Israel yesterday that Baker will arrive here in September, before the conference is convened, to finalize various relevant issues, including the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the conference procedures. Reports reaching Israel from reliable sources in Europe indicate that the USSR is putting heavy pressure on Yasir 'Arafat and other senior PLO officials to accept one of the compromise proposals on the Palestinian delegation issue and to give up, at this stage, on the presence of an East Jerusalem representative in the conference, on the basis of a U.S.-Soviet promise that this would not constitute a precedent for the second stage of the negotiations.

'Positive Signals' Received From Arab Countries

TA0708054691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Reports reaching Israel from U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's entourage indicate there are signs of progress on the Palestinian representation issue, in accordance with the understandings made with Israel. Positive signals are reaching Israel also from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and North African countries. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

U.S. Secretary of State Baker's visit in North Africa was described by a senior official in Jerusalem with the following biblical verse: He asked water and she gave him milk [Judges, 5:25]. Indeed, according to reports from Baker's entourage, progress is being seen in the Palestinians' willingness to form a delegation that Israel will not be able to oppose. They no longer insist on an East Jerusalem representative or on the conditions for entering the negotiations, but rather they want to know what will happen later: What issues will be discussed in the second stage of the negotiations, and what will its goals be. Baker's visit indicates that the Maghreb countries, too, are considering joining the negotiations, and Baker's announcement that a Libyan representative might join as an observer bears witness to this. Al-Qadhdhafi, it turns out, wants to appease the United States.

Reports reaching Jerusalem also indicate that the Jordanian Government is seriously preparing for the negotiations. This was the impression of diplomats who visited Amman a few days ago. In addition, there are signs of efforts at a dialogue between Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia, for its part, is relaying messages expressing its interest in the regional working groups that will deal with ecological and disarmament issues. Saudi Arabia is also sending out positive signals on the Arab boycott issue.

Still, so that the pictured does not look too rosy, difficulties are pointed out. Jerusalem notes remarks made by the Syrian president to a European diplomat: The ceremonial opening session will take place, but it is highly doubtful whether the negotiations will succeed. Today, in any event, three U.S. State Department officials are arriving in Israel to discuss the memorandums of understanding with the Israeli and Palestinian representatives. Reference is apparently to two memorandums, one for us and one for the Palestinians. We do not know what will be proposed to the Palestinians, a senior official in Jerusalem said, but it will be an open document, at least. Great surprises are not expected.

'Indirect' PLO Contacts With U.S. Reported

TA0708094991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Aug 91 p A1

[Report by Arab affairs and territories correspondents 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] Next week Israel is expected to receive, through the United States, a preliminary list of Palestinian candidates for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. A statement to that effect came from Arab sources in Tunis, who added that contacts on the matter have been held since U.S. Secretary of State James Baker concluded his visits to Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.

According to them, PLO leaders in Tunis have been holding contacts with Egypt and Jordan, in addition to indirect contacts with U.S. officials, as part of the effort to compose a list of delegates. The sources added that the PLO leaders realize that Israel will withhold its consent to the Palestinian delegates list for several weeks, possibly even until the last minute before the conference. [passage omitted]

Activists in the territories who are informed about the meetings related to the peace process said that, in any event, the Palestinians will demand that the Americans include two important points in the memorandum of understanding: that the United States is ready to provide international guarantees on the issue of Jerusalem, in the form of UN Security Council resolutions saying that East

Jerusalem is occupied land; and that on the day the peace conference opens, Israel will declare a cessation to all settlement activity.

The territories leadership is expecting the PLO to declare publicly its positions with regard to joining the peace conference, thereby facilitating the Palestinian team's negotiations with the United States. At the same time, the Palestinian press in East Jerusalem is conducting an extensive campaign to explain the subject of the peace conference. After three East Jerusalem papers ran a comprehensive interview with Faysal al-Husayni about agreements reached in the last meeting with Baker, the East Jerusalem press is now concentrating on the Palestinian representation issue. [passage omitted]

Baker Seen Giving Veto to PLO

TA0708121191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Aug 91 p A10

[Commentary by Yosef Harif: "Baker Grants the PLO Veto Powers"]

[Text] Before leaving Israel last weekend, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir of his plans to visit the Maghreb countries. "You will not be meeting with the PLO," commented Shamir. "No, I am prepared to give that to you in writing," replied Baker. "That will not be necessary; it is enough that you are telling me," answered Shamir.

In theory Baker stood by his promise, but in practice he talked to the PLO. Baker asked the Moroccan king and the presidents of Algeria and Tunisia to plead with 'Arafat to allow Palestinians in the territories to attend the conference as part of the Jordanian delegation. These pleas are tantamount to talking to the PLO, because they attest to Baker's recognition that without the PLO it will be impossible to compose a Palestinian delegation, and that without the Palestinians it will be hard to attain peace.

'Arafat decided who would be in the Palestinian delegation that conferred with Baker on various occasions. However, because he had promised Israel that it would not have to talk to people it does not want to talk to, Baker had to look for other candidates. As he saw it, he needed 'Arafat for that, which is how the PLO leader actually came to be granted veto powers. Through this move, Baker actually gave 'Arafat the power to decide whether there will be a peace process. It is strange, therefore, that the secretary of state should now be waiting for 'Arafat to heed the pleas of Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia.

On the face of it, al-Asad did not make his participation in the process contingent on the Palestinians' consent. Shamir has stated that he will not be sorry if the negotiations are held without them. On the other hand, Baker has not given up on the Palestinians and on the inclusion of the PLO in the negotiations, and his persistent courting of the PLO attests to that.

Some say that Baker is doing that because Faysal al-Husayni told him "you are talking to a dead man...." In other words, without the PLO's approval al-Husayni and anybody agreeing to be part of the delegation in defiance of 'Arafat are doomed to die.

At one time Defense Minister Arens tried to influence public figures in the territories to endorse the idea of elections (based on the government initiative of May 1989). Almost all of them welcomed the notion, but when Arens asked them whether they would consider presenting their candidacy the answer was: Yes, I would, but my wife won't let me....

There is no telling how Baker will ultimately form a Palestinian delegation "without the PLO," as he has promised Shamir. If what affects him is the PLO's terrorizing of the inhabitants of the territories, then the veto he granted 'Arafat will not help either. And, if 'Arafat gives his agreement, there will still be the threats of Jibril, Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

New Settlement Near Hebron Okayed; More Due

TA0708073091

[Editorial Report] Several Hebrew-language newspapers on 7 August report on various settlement plans. Tel Aviv HADASHOT, in a page 3 report by Aharon Klein, Shlomo Dror, and Yoram Binur, writes: "Some two weeks ago, about when Eshkolot was approved, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Defense Minister Moshe Arens gave their approval for the civilianization of 'Aner, a Nahal Brigade outpost, which will be renamed Har Manoah. The Har Manoah base abuts the southern part of Hebron, on the road leading to the Arab village of Yattah. The base, which sprawls over 300 dunams, serves an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force in charge of security in the area. Har Manoah will be populated by a 15- family settling body from Qiryat Arba'."

The report adds: "HADASHOT has learned that for the time being, the Defense Ministry is delaying the practical approval of the final inauguration of the settlement, because the step would mean settling inside a military base.

"Jewish Agency sources said yesterday that the decision to civilianize the place had been made by the cabinet in April, around the time of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit. They also stated that, of all the planned settlements, Har Manoah will be the only one abutting a major Arab town."

Another HADASHOT report by Shlomo Dror on page 3 states: "There are plans for three new Nahal Brigade outposts: Ovnat, near 'Enot Tzuqim facing the Dead Sea; Adura, south of Mount Hebron; and Zohar, near the al-Zahiriyah refugee camp. In addition to those, the cabinet has approved the establishment of 15 additional points in the territories [not further specified]."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 7 August carries an interview with Matityahu Drobles, head of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department, by Hayim Zissowitz. Asked whether he can "confirm whether the establishment of new settlements or the civilianization of Nahal Brigade outposts is expected," Drobles says: "To the best of my knowledge, to date there is no decision either to civilianize outposts or to establish new settlements at this time."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, in a page 2 report by Tzvi Singer, writes: "Gush Emunim and Amana have been exerting heavy pressure on the Defense Ministry to civilianize another Nahal Brigade outpost in the territories in the coming days. The outpost, Ginat, is about 5 km northwest of Janin."

The report adds that "Ginat already has several buildings, including a small factory, as well as appropriate infrastructure for the speedy establishment of a civilian settlement."

The report goes on to say: "In a secret operation last Sunday [4 August], the Construction and Housing Ministry and the 'Amidar construction company set up some 20 new mobile homes in the settlement of Giv'on, north of Jerusalem. The homes are unoccupied at present, but people are expected move in soon."

Chief of Staff on Importance of Golan

TA0608114991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Interview with Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe at an Israeli Defense Forces recruitment center on 6 August—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Menashe] Lieutenant General Baraq, in these days of the nascency of the peace process, the question of territorial concession is being raised. To what extent is the Golan Heights an important strategic asset for the State of Israel?

[Baraq] The Golan Heights is a vital component of the State of Israel's security and of its ability to defend itself. I think that at this time, it would not do to say anything further on this subject.

[Menashe] Were you surprised by al-Asad's move?

[Baraq] In my view, al-Asad had appraised the situation and made a realistic assessment of what is and is not attainable at this time, in this international constellation, and in view of the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] strength. To the best of my understanding, the IDF's strength both on the battlefield and between wars has been a significant factor in forming the Arab recognition of the inevitability of direct negotiations with the State of Israel. To the best of my understanding, we will require this strength for many years to come, both as a backing for political freedom of action—if a process is indeed launched—and as the determining factor on the battlefield, if it is again forced on us by reality.

[Menashe] Does Syria still constitute a threat to Israel?

[Baraq] From the viewpoint of military potential, Syria is the central threat. I believe we are now in the embryonic stage of a process that I believe will be very long and very complex, with opportunities and not without risks. In any event, the IDF's strength will be needed for a long time, both because of the uncertainties inherent in the very process and because of the need to conduct the political process from a position of strength. It is my opinion that for many years to come we will need a very strong army, and there is no way to secure one without appropriate financial investments by the State of Israel.

[Menashe] Can the multiyear plan be implemented if the budget the Army has requested is not approved?

[Baraq] We need an additional 5 billion shekels [approximately $2.1 billion] in the course of 1992 through 1995. This sum includes an extra 1 billion shekels for 1992, and I hope very much that a way will be found to put these sums at our disposal. We need them for the barest needs of the various aspects of the country's security.

[Menashe] Chief of Staff, in this time of political processes, do you foresee a surge in the number of terrorist attacks, both in the territories and inside the Green Line, and perhaps also along the borders?

[Baraq] The talk of political processes is undoubtedly liable to lead extremist Palestinian elements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as Lebanon or even abroad, to make a deliberate attempt at stepping up their activities. We will do our best to meet this challenge.

[Menashe] Including the intifadah?

[Baraq] There, too, there has been an increase in the incidence of gunfire and hostile terrorist activities, and there has been a certain decline in mass disturbances, although the latter cannot as yet be considered permanent. We are doing our best to deal with the rise in gunfire and terrorist activities. [passage omitted]

Year-Old U.S. Golan Proposal Noted

TA0608164391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Excerpt] Over a year ago, several days after the surprising conciliatory meeting between Presidents Bush and al-Asad, the U.S. secretary of state summoned Zalman Shoval, Israeli ambassador to Washington, and asked him: Would Israel be prepared to give up land on the Golan Heights if a U.S. force were to be deployed there? The negative Israeli response was obvious then and now, but it came as a surprise in Jerusalem.

Reports now arriving from Washington said the proposal was being raised again in working papers being prepared

by the administration in addition to the proposals for alternative or additional military arrangements. Another development recently emanated from Damascus. The foreign minister of a European country recently conferred with President al-Asad and later said that the Syrian leader had told him that he would naturally demand an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, but that he was also offering the demilitarization of the plateau. Al-Asad said he recognizes Israel's security needs and therefore is also proposing a demilitarization inside Syria. He also said Lebanon would demand an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon, but on that subject Israel has a 1983 agreement with the United States which says that Israel would not pull out of south Lebanon unless all the foreign forces, including the Syrians and the PLO, withdraw from there. That accord will be anchored in the memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States. [passage omitted]

Egyptian Plan To Accelerate Process Rejected

TA0508092891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Aug 91 p 3

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanaymi]

[Text] Israel has rejected an Egyptian plan to accelerate the peace process.

During Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Egypt last week, his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa, presented him an Egyptian plan aimed at accelerating the peace process.

Reporting on the Egyptian proposal last night, Radio Monte Carlo's Cairo correspondent noted that the plan proposed to Levi included the following five points:

—As of August, Israel would stop settlement activities in the territories.
—Israel would announce the release of political detainees and would call off its settlement policy.
—Israel and Egypt would immediately enter negotiations to formulate a position paper that would be based on the principle of territory for peace.
—Israel would announce its willingness to enter negotiations on the elimination of nonconventional weapons in the Middle East.
—Israel would announce its acceptance of all international resolutions pertaining to the Middle East.

According to the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent, Musa proposed to Levi to announce Israel's acceptance of the above principles during his stay in the Egyptian capital, but the Israeli foreign minister declined.

Sources See PLO Weakening in Territories

TA0608060191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Along with the decrease in riots and decline in enthusiasm for the intifadah, there has been a rise in serious attacks. This observation came from Israeli elements, who noted that every organization in the territories is attempting to promote such serious attacks—which include gunfire, hand grenades, and bombs—inside the Green Line and in the territories. Activities of this kind intensified in recent months, reaching 41 armed attacks in June 1991 compared to 29 in June 1990. There were 23 armed attacks in July 1990 versus 28 this year. While in the past, gunfire was usually directed at collaborators, this year the largest number of attacks was against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops.

Israeli sources say that the rate of serious attacks will grow, with radical and religious organizations as well as left-wing elements leading the drive. Senior sources told us that the PLO has not ordered the shift to firearms. The sources further noted that the PLO fears the dissolution of its ties with the territories. While Islamic fundamentalism has grown visibly stronger, the PLO is facing a serious danger of a rift with the population of the territories. One of the reasons is the grave financial crisis in which the PLO has found itself since the Gulf war.

The PLO, which based its activities on a $200 million grant from the Arab League, now receives less than half that amount, mainly from Libya. Since 2 August, it has received no funds from the Arab countries, and for the first time is closing offices. Of its 122 branches throughout the world, it has closed 10 in Africa and Asia, cut personnel at dozens of representations in Europe from 100 to 40 or 50, and seriously slashed salaries of terrorists. The senior sources told us that this situation has undoubtedly influenced the territories' morale and combat potential.

Military Sources on PLO Activity

TA0508064291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Any appointed Palestinian delegate will be able to operate only on behalf of the PLO. This is the assessment of military sources, who note that the PLO realizes that it stands on the threshold of fateful decisions. The PLO is backing Faysal al-Husayni, Hannan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha, who took part in the most recent meetings. This is the Palestinian troika that is leading the moves.

The PLO has reached the stage in which it must make a historic and difficult decision. According to military sources, the PLO does not have the backing of the Arab states; it is an outcast. It is facing the threat of a political process taking place without it, but neither does the PLO want to take the blame for fouling the political process. The troika is conducting the negotiations with the PLO's permission. For its part, the PLO will hold lengthy negotiations on the memorandum of understanding until

the beginning of October and will not give an unequivocal answer. In any event, the Palestinian troika has declared that it is working in the name of the PLO.

According to the same assessment, extreme religious organizations including Hizballah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, other religious organizations, and the left-wing bloc in the PLO—Hawatimah and Habash—will increase terrorist activity against Israel in the territories and within the Green Line on the one hand and from across the Jordanian border on the other. At the same time, the senior military sources believe, there will also be an increase in terrorist activity by the same elements abroad, mainly in view of the fact that Iran has created an international infrastructure and convenient bases for such terrorist activity. These elements will do everything in their power to torpedo agreements, including wanton and formidable terrorist acts in the territories, inside the Green Line, and abroad. According to the military sources, threats have already been directed at al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi, and al-Agha. They received personal letters, as well as threats through the newspapers and leaflets, against what is being called compromise with the infidels.

At the same time, the sources believe that there will be no change in the number of attacks from Lebanon and that the decline may even continue because the PLO's ability to act there has been diminished and despite the increase in Hizballah involvement and the rise in its terror attempts. The Lebanese Army is making an effort to block Palestinian activity in the western sector of south Lebanon in order to show the world that the Army is in control of the territory and to realize its wish to get Israel out of southern Lebanon. Most of the activity has moved eastward. In this area, Hizballah is in control. The small degree of PLO activity results from a lack of motivation stemming from a serious shortage of funds, a lack of leadership, a reduction in the salaries paid to the terrorists, and unclear orders from commanders. The PLO's political situation is affecting its military ability. On the one hand, it is tied to the process and cannot use massive terror, while on the other, the PLO has to deal with the consequences of the Gulf war.

Rise in Tax Income Indicates Economic Upturn

TA0508103691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Aug 91 p 9

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[Excerpts] State income from taxes rose 13 percent in real terms last month, to NIS [new Israeli shekels] 3.6 billion—signifying a strong economic upturn over the year-earlier period, State Revenue Commissioner Yoram Gabay announced yesterday.

For the April-July period overall—the first four months of fiscal 1991—tax revenues grew 12 percent in real terms, to NIS 13.1b, after a sharp downturn during the first three months of the calendar year because of the Gulf war. However, some of this increase stemmed from higher tax rates, such as the 2 percent increase in value-added tax this January. Discounting this factor, revenues during the four-month period rose 8 percent in real terms. [passage omitted]

The Treasury also reported yesterday that imports of durable goods, in comparison to the same periods last year, rose 14.3 percent in dollar terms in July, and 8.7 percent for the April-July period. The increase was most marked in refrigerator imports.

Former Albanian Official—Ties Within Two Weeks

TA0608175091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Fatos Nano, the former Albanian prime minister who is now visiting Israel, says that full diplomatic relations between the two countries will be renewed within two weeks. Fatos Nano, who heads the socialist party in Albania, came to Israel as the guest of Labor Party chairman Shim'on Peres. The Albanian visitor met with the Foreign Ministry director general today.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reported today that Foreign Minister Levi said that his Albanian counterpart may visit Israel this month to sign the official protocol consolidating relations between the two countries.

King Husayn Cited on 'Last Chance' for Peace

JN0708062291 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Excerpt of interview with King Husayn by Rami Khuri; date, place not given—recorded; first paragraph is Amman TV introduction]

[Text] His majesty the king said that this was the last chance for peace. In an interview on the "Encounter" program, to be aired tomorrow night, his majesty said the results would be disastrous unless we act quickly.

[Begin recording] [Husayn] Well certainly it may be the last chance as far as I am concerned, sir. I mean after all these years of striving to get this chronic problem resolved, I believe that the degree of frustration, the degree of despair, the degree of loss of hope, the degree of extremism, born of a people denied all rights over so long, could be disastrous beyond this point unless of course we move toward resolving the problem. I think that there are many encouraging signs that were not there before. So it is the last chance in that sense, and there are also the physical aspects of the needs of all concerned, in the context of peace, that could be addressed.

[Khuri] You are talking of?

[Husayn] Drainage of water and something else, economic development, etc., but without that it is a downhill slide for everybody.

[Khuri] How is your perception of your country today, different maybe, than it was five or 10 years ago? Has there been a change in your own mind?

[Husayn] I believe there is a very, very great change, sir, and when we can see, Rami, people sitting together and discussing the Charter and developing that Charter and agreeing to it from both ends, the two extremes, left and right, and we see the Charter and we see how well it has been received—free elections, progress toward, pluralism, all these developments in the area, and the crisis we experienced. By the way, we were hit twice as you well know. We were hit by the first economic disaster that took us by surprise when it was really again the result of our being on the receiving end of every negative development of the Palestinian cause in terms of the human dimension and others, or for that matter, that Israel has always been supported by the rest of its friends, whereas we had to rely on less and less support from our brethren Arabs. Broken promises suddenly caused the Jordan dinar to collapse to about half its value.

[Khuri] You are talking of '88-'89?

[Husayn] I am talking about that period. That was in itself a tremendous blow. [end recording]

Iraqi Vice President Ramadan Arrives in Amman

JN0708102991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0956 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 7 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, arrived here today on a visit to Jordan. Taha Yasin Ramadan told the INA correspondent in Amman that he has an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries.

He noted that the message also deals with the delicate circumstances the Arab nation is experiencing, the fierce Zionist- U.S. onslaught, and the serious coordination among the Arab countries to confront this dangerous onslaught. The vice president pointed out that the escalation of plotting against the Arab nation coincides with the continuation of the economic blockade on Iraq's people, which constitutes flagrant aggression against the Iraqi people and a violation of international norms and laws, something which necessitates the lifting of this blockade.

He was received by Jordan's Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri, Culture and Information Minister Khalid al-Karaki, and Iraq's Ambassador in Amman Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis.

Meets With al-Masri

JN0708104691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 7 Aug (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, met here today with Jordan's Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and the importance of continuing meetings between the officials in both fraternal countries with the objective of finding new prospects to promote cooperation between them, which used to develop under all circumstances.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and al-Masri also discussed the current Arab situation, and stressed the importance of bolstering joint Arab action to confront the conspiracies that are being hatched overtly against the Arab nation and its future. They expressed satisfaction with the existing relations between the two countries and stressed their joint concern over further promoting them in the interest of the two fraternal peoples.

Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal and Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis attended the meeting.

Sudanese Minister, Counterpart Sign Minutes

JN0608144991 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Report by Salim 'Ali Dhiyab]

[Excerpt] Khalid al-Karaki, minister of information and culture, and 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, the Sudanese minister of information and culture, today signed minutes of a meeting to activate and implement the agreement signed by the two countries in Khartoum in 1970 and to emphasize programs by the two countries for 1991-1993. Al-Karaki stressed that cultural and information links between Jordan and Sudan deepen ties and activate various aspects in culture and information. [passage omitted]

Only Palestinians Can Choose Representatives

JN0708080091 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Aug 91 pp 1,14

[Editorial: "The Palestinians Alone Have the Right To Choose Their Delegation"]

[Text] No doubt U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has finally realized, after six shuttle tours to the region, that Israel alone places obstacles before the peaceful settlement efforts and attempts to disrupt and even undermine the very foundations of these efforts if possible.

No doubt that the U.S. secretary saw with his own eyes the extent of Israeli intransigence and stubbornness which cannot help toward establishing a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the region.

The impossible conditions the Shamir government places for its participation in the peace conference—which completely contradict international legitimacy and aim at attaining expansionist designs on Arab land and water—obstruct the settlement process, thwart the U.S. initiative, and dispel this available chance for peace, which could be the last, especially since Israel rejects the legitimate Palestinian representatives, representatives from Jerusalem, and international legitimacy resolutions, foremost among them being the principle of land for peace. Bear in mind that there is a general consensus on the need to involve the PLO in the peace settlement, since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As His Majesty King Husayn said in an interview with the U.S. television network ABC, the general consensus is summarized in that the Palestinians alone have the right to choose the delegation that will represent them at the peace negotiations and that the Arab part of Jerusalem is considered part of the occupied territories and equal to them; international legitimacy resolutions are applicable to Jerusalem, just as they are to the occupied territories.

Hence, we can say that PLO participation in the peace conference, and the Palestinians choosing their delegation away from any Israeli intervention, is an indisputable necessity if the peace process is intended to succeed and if it is intended to begin. As King Husayn said, when the peace process begins, many issues that seem impossible could later become possible.

Israel could depend on the weak, frail, and divided Arab situation in its rejection of the Palestinian representatives and international legitimacy resolutions, but this situation is not unchangable. The Arab nation will not accept, under any circumstances and regardless of the opinion of its current leadership, a settlement that is not based on the principle of land for peace and the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. The Palestine question, as His Majesty King Husayn repeatedly stressed, is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Without reaching a solution to the conflict that is acceptable to the Palestinians, no settlement can pass.

This is an entrenched fact in Jordan's conscience and mind, especially since Jordan is the most affected in all domains by the Palestine question.

Jordan, which has no regional objectives, is preoccupied with the Palestinian problem. Jordan sees that resolving the Palestinian question, through a solution acceptable and satisfactory to the Palestinians, is the basis for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. Otherwise, there can never be peace in the region.

Therefore, we hope that when the U.S. secretary comes to the region on his seventh tour next month, he places this fact before his eyes and never neglects it.

Jobless Expatriates Arrive From Kuwait

JN0708065091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Aug 91 p 1

["By a JORDAN TIMES Staff Reporter"]

[Text] Amman—The first group of Jordanians and Palestinians whose employment contracts were not renewed by their Kuwaiti employers arrived here Tuesday, and reports said that 3,000 such expatriates were scheduled to return home by mid-August.

The group of 340 people landed here aboard two privately chartered Egyptian airliners, and another plane with 170 passengers was expected late Tuesday, according to the Associated Press.

Sources quoted by the AP in Amman said Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in Kuwait had charted 14 Egyptian planes to fly 3,000 people to Amman by Aug. 13.

It was not immediately known how many of those arriving Tuesday were West Bank residents carrying temporary Jordanian passports.

Expatriate sources said most of the repatriates had been waiting for Kuwaiti banks to lift restrictions on withdrawals from their own accounts or for their employers to pay compensation and service termination benefits.

Noting that Kuwaiti banks have lifted all restrictions on Aug. 2, an expatriate source told the Jordan Times that the charters were arranged in advance in anticipation of

the Kuwaiti banks' move, which was announced by the Kuwaiti central bank in June.

"Most of the expatriates have closed their accounts and withdrew all their money," said the source, preferring anonymity. "The lifting of controls also cleared the way for employers to withdraw money to settle their dues to employees," he noted.

"Some of the employers have not settled their dues, and in such cases the expatriates have left behind power of attorney with friends and relatives authorising them to collect the dues on their behalf."

Many of the expected arrivals lived through the seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait which ended in late February "because they had nothing else but their savings in the bank accounts and expectations of severence pay from employers," noted the source, preferring anonymity.

According to the source, "the Kuwaiti government's policy of hiring non-Kuwaitis only when Kuwaitis could not be found for the required job has affected not only Jordanians or Palestinians but all expatriates" in the Emirate.

Official sources said late last month that Jordan had received definite indications that there would not be any mass expulsion of Jordanians or Palestinians from Kuwait.

Official figures indicate that about 270,000 expatriates have returned home since the Gulf crisis erupted with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 20 [as published].

Officials also estimate that about 170,000 Jordanian passport holders remain in Kuwait.

The expatriate source said thousands of Palestinians holding Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian documents were also scheduled to fly out of Kuwait this month.

Ceiling for Foreign Currency Accounts Raised

JN0708072891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the Central Bank of Jordan issued Memorandum No. 155/91 to all licensed banks and financial institutions, amending the ceiling for foreign currency accounts that residents of the Kingdom are allowed to hold. The new ceiling is set at 500,000 dinars instead of 150,000 dinars.

This amendment is in line with the positive changes witnessed by the foreign stock exchange market in the Kingdom over the past two years and the qualitative shift these changes have produced regarding the activity of the foreign stock exchange. These developments encouraged this step, which comes as part of the plan to gradually cancel restrictions on foreign currency in Jordan. This step is also aimed at helping resident citizens absorb their deposits maintained abroad.

It is worth mentioning that the instructions in place to monitor foreign currency allow nonresidents to have a foreign currency account inside the Kingdom with no preset ceiling. The instructions also give them the freedom to make withdrawals and transfers from their accounts without any restrictions.

'Text' of Islamic Jihad Statement on Hostages

NC0608153691 Paris AFP in English 1425 GMT 6 Aug 91

["Complete text of Islamic Jihad statement"]

[Text] Beirut, Aug 6 (AFP)—Following is a translation of the Islamic Jihad statement, typewritten in Arabic and sent to a Western news agency here Tuesday:

"With time, truth comes to light....

"The affair of hostages and detainees in the world has transformed itself into a problem which during many years has concerned the centers of international decision-making, has made many heads roll and many policies fail.

"It is from now on a subject of exploitation by the opportunistic policies of the Americans and Israelis, at the expense of those who claim they are responsible for this affair, and who abandon it to chance and transform it into a problem which will only be able to be resolved when it is treated with more seriousness and responsibility.

"Moved by our conviction that it is necessary to settle the question of our mujahidin (Muslim fighter) prisoners in the world, notably in occupied Palestine, and the problem of those we are holding, we will send in the next 48 hours a special envoy with an extremely important message to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar," the statement said.

Organization Warns Against Release of Hostages

NC0708045291 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] According to security reports, three explosions rocked the UN center at Beirut's southern entrance last night but caused only material damage. AFP has cited an anonymous person claiming to be a spokesman for the Organization for the Defense of Detainees' Rights [Munazzamat al-Difa' 'an Huquq al-Mu'taqalin] as saying that his organization categorically rejects the expected deal to release an American and a British hostage at a time when, in his words, our brothers remain in Israeli and Western prisons. He warned against the release of any of hostage if all political detainees in Israeli and Western prisons are not released as well. He advised Perez de Cuellar not to allow himself to become involved in suspect plans that serve the interest of U.S. intelligence and Israel's Mosad.

Islamic Jihad To Send Envoy to UN Within Hours

LD0708143291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization has announced that within hours it will send an envoy to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar with a letter relating to a comprehensive settlement of the issue of hostages and detained mujahidin in the world, especially in occupied Palestine. The Islamic Jihad Organization, which yesterday issued a communique accompanied by a photograph of Terry Anderson, one of the U.S. hostages, is demanding the release of Palestinian and Lebanese detained in Israel. Press sources believe that the Islamic Jihad Organization's envoy could be one of the hostages whom it is detaining.

Hizballah Links Arms Handover, Israeli Withdrawal

NC0708160591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] After visiting Interior Minister Sami al-Khatib, Hizballah political bureau member Shaykh Khadir Nur-al-Din said that handing over Hizballah weapons to the Lebanese Government is linked to ending the Israeli occupation.

Al-Amin Receives CPSU Central Committee Officials

NC0608202791 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] This evening Minister of State 'Abdallah al-Amin received Valeriy Musatov, chairman of the CPSU Central Committee's International Department, who was accompanied by Sergey Degal, chairman of the Lebanon-Syria-Palestine branch in the department. After the meeting, Musatov emphasized the need for a peaceful solution to the Middle East crisis, pointing out that the use of arms is contrary to the peoples' interests.

Vice President Interviewed on Lebanon, PLO

PM0608151591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 4 Aug 91 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Muhammad al-Rumayhi in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Rumayhi] How does does Syria view Syrian-Kuwaiti relations, their developments, and the Damascus Declaration?

[Khaddam] The relationship between the two countries is not new. Since Kuwait's independence, Syria has worked to strengthen this independence; then normal relations started. They waxed and waned according to political conditions in the region, but despite this, you can say that relations between the two countries were good and relations between the two peoples were good to excellent. This is attributable to the spirit of pan-Arabism which exists among Syrian and Kuwaiti citizens. We want to say that despite its being a small country, Kuwait has contributed within certain limits to strengthening international cooperation and to the provision of the aid offered at some points to the frontline states. Of course, I do not want to point out that this pan-Arab commitment was less than we expected; at any rate, it was an expression of pan-Arab participation in a long struggle involving the Arabs and not only the frontline states but the Arab nation as a whole. Then came the war waged by the Iraqi regime against Iran, and disagreement was clear between us and our Kuwaiti brothers as a result of their assessment of that war and their view of its future results. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim, you are entrusted in Syria with handling the Lebanese issue and there are many positive developments on the Lebanese scene. How do you visualize the restoration of Lebanon's health and what is the time limit for that?

[Khaddam] We can simply say that Lebanon has taken a long stride toward restoring its health. Let us compare the situation now and the situation a year ago. A year ago there was still a war there. A year ago there was no state. True, there was a president of the Republic, a prime minister, and a chamber of deputies, but all the state's powers were obstructed. There were small states within the state.

Over the past months Lebanon has become a state whose strength is growing and authority is strengthening day by day. The Lebanese state has restored its authority over all the institutions that were under the armed organizations' control. The militias have been disbanded, all heavy and medium weapons have been collected, and a national unity government has been formed. So major steps have been taken to restore its health, but there are still major steps ahead of Lebanon. Work is being conducted to carry them out on the basis of a program derived from the national accord charter based on what was termed the al-Ta'if agreement. There are still other steps, but what has been achieved so far is very important. [passage omitted]

[Al-Rumayhi] In their recent statements Lebanese officials' linked the completion of restoring Lebanon's health with the Middle East issue. Do you believe that this may pose a danger at this stage?

[Khaddam] The Lebanese state has never linked the Lebanese problem with the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Lebanese problem is an internal problem, and there is another problem, namely the occupation problem involving the Israeli enemy. As we understood from rulers who were in Damascus last Saturday, the Lebanese Government did not and will not link Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon with the Middle East crisis. They insist that Resolution 425 be implemented before they take part in the proceedings of the peace conference if it is held. As they told us, they are concerned with the peace conference regarding peace arrangements in the region.

The Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is governed by the implementation of Resolution 425, especially as the proposed peace conference will be held on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338. The former concerns the June 1967 war and the latter concerns the October 1973 war, and Lebanon was a party to neither of them. Besides, Resolution 425 was not issued because of the war between the Lebanese state and the Israeli enemy but because of the Israeli enemy's invasion of Lebanon under numerous pretexts, including the national and Palestinian organizations' activities. Naturally, these organizations are hostile to Israel, and this is the excuse. The Lebanese state did not take part in the war, which is why the Lebanese insist on nonlinkage, and we support them.

[Al-Rumayhi] Mr. 'Abd-al-Halim, world news agencies and the world press reacted very positively to President Hafiz al-Asad's world press interview on the future of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Are there assurances from the world's states about Israel's total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including the Golan Heights?

[Khaddam] The president was clear. He was asked whether there was a U.S. guarantee about the withdrawal, and he replied that we had no guarantee. The Americans say that they are committed to working for a comprehensive solution based on the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. So they are committed to working to implement these two resolutions, and naturally the two resolutions in question include among their principal elements the realization of the Israeli withdrawal. Furthermore, President Bush emphasized in his message to the president that the United States pledges not to recognize Israel's decision to annex the Golan to Israel.

So we have a U.S. position, and this position is not new. The United States voted for Resolution 242 and also

voted for Resolution 338. It also contributed to sponsoring the Geneva conference early in 1974. So politically, there is nothing new in the U.S. position. The new element in U.S. policy is its announcement of the determination to work to enforce these resolutions and, consequently, arrive at a solution and a comprehensive political settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Al-Rumayhi] In his interview the president also spoke about Palestinian representation and there was a proposal that the Palestinians elect their representatives. The question is about the background of the contradictory stances adopted by Yasir 'Arafat throughout his long history, especially toward Syria, and his weak tactics reflected clearly in his position supporting the evil Iraqi regime. Do you believe there is a need for new Palestinian representation for the sake of participation in the upcoming peace conference?

[Khaddam] First of all, we should differentiate between the Palestinian cause, which is a pan-Arab commitment on our part as Arabs, and the PLO leadership's political practices. Certainly these practices in many aspects and at many stages were not in the right direction and inflicted major setbacks on the Palestinian issue. The most recent of these practices was the position on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Of course, we had hoped that that position would be based on the principles which should govern the PLO, namely standing against aggression everywhere in the world. We Arabs are victim to aggression. If a state at the far end of the American continent commits aggression against another state, we should stand against the aggressor because we are victims of aggression. We have an enemy who commits aggression against us and who threatens us with aggression. So we should always strengthen resistance against aggression anywhere in the world.

The PLO leadership made a big mistake in this regard, but, as I said, differentiate between the PLO and the Palestinian cause, which is our cause. When we committed and continue to commit ourselves to bolstering the Palestinian Arab people's struggle, we do so not for the sake of so and so or for the PLO's sake. This commitment was in our hearts before the PLO was set up.

The Arabs established the PLO in order to be a means or a framework that would strengthen pan-Arab struggle against the Zionist schemes and against the Zionist enemy.

Thus what is important is that there should be serious Palestinian representation capable of shouldering the responsibility. Any imaginary representation would leave the Palestinian issue as it is. That is, if it is accepted that Palestinian representation be based on the conditions set by Israel, this means that the Palestinian issue will remain open and every Palestinian at any time and everywhere will say that he has nothing to do with this solution and that he is not committed to it because he was not represented on the grounds that the representation did not come from the Palestinian people but was conducted under an agreement among some states.

For the first time in history we witness a conference—or whatever name we want to call it—in which one party (the enemy) is selecting the other party (his adversary) with whom he will negotiate. This is why we insist that Palestinian representation should be serious.

There are two ways to ensure the seriousness of representation: either hold elections under adequate supervision to enable the Palestinian people to select their representatives or on the Palestinian scene as a whole. [sentence as published] The Palestinian issue has nothing to do with the West Bank and Gaza. The issue of the West Bank and Gaza has nothing to do with territories occupied in 1967, but there are millions of Palestinians who live in exile and no one can drop their case at all. They must participate in the peace process.

The Arab-Israeli conflict started since the the establishment of the Hebraic state and its expulsion of the Palestinians. Before 1967 there were no occupied non-Palestinian Arab territories, but all Arabs were concerned with the Palestinian cause.

[Al-Rumayhi] You said that there are two ways.

[Khaddam] The other way is the PLO's way, but this will be when all groups and tendencies are present within the PLO so that all will shoulder their responsibilities in the peace process. The existence of any Palestinian framework outside the PLO would leave the problem open. This is why the president was also clear on this question when he cited representation through elections or through an organization comprising everyone.

This is our view and we in fact believe that the Palestinians should shoulder their responsibilities in full.

[Al-Rumayhi] After the president's interview, foreign newspapers said in their headlines that the ball was in the Israeli court. How would you assess Israeli reactions to the Syrian peace offensive in the recent period?

[Khaddam] Actually the Israelis do not want peace for an ideological reason and for an interim reason. The ideological reason is that the Zionist ideology is based on the Jews' Torah faith which they say calls for establishing the state of greater Israel. So any step designed to limit Israeli expansion and bring about an Israeli withdrawal conflicts with the Zionist ideology. We can see that everyone in Israel is falling over each other to reject withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The other reason is that the Zionist movement is planning to bring the Jews from the Soviet Union. It planned for that for many years, but the fact of the emigration took it by surprise. It did not expect it, and when the delivery of the gift took it by surprise, it started to believe that the realization of greater Israel was no longer remote.

Bringing a few million Soviet Jews to Palestine will lead to the existence of a huge human bulk together with huge military and scientific energies, and will lead also to further aggression and expansion. This is why they are maneuvering and do not want any serious inclination toward a comprehensive, just, peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy, and are doging and weaving. They used to use the Syrian position as an excuse, but the [Syrian] response to Bush's initiative has put them in a dilemma. They are now raising another excuse, namely Palestinian representation, and they will continue to raise excuses in order to obstruct or absorb the world pressure which is moving toward resolving the Middle East crisis. This is why if the response to the U.S. President's message contains some positiveness, we should expect a series of maneuvers designed to torpedo all that has been achieved. [passage omitted]

Iranian Minister Delivers Message for al-Asad

JN0708115091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi, interior minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his delegation arrived in Damascus this morning on a five-day visit to Syria, at the invitation of Syrian Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah.

He was received at Damascus' international airport by Dr. Muhammad Harbah, his assistants, the directors of the Ministry's departments and central offices, the commander of the Damascus Governorate and Rural Areas Police, and the Iranian ambassador and embassy staff in Damascus.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri-Hoseynabadi told the SANA correspondent that he came to Syria to convey a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from his brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also explained that he will hold talks with Interior Minister Dr. Muhammad Harbah on issues of interest to the interior ministries of the two countries.

Arms Deal With Soviet Union in 'Serious' Trouble

TA0608113891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 6 Aug 91 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[Text] The Syrian-Soviet arms deal is in serious financial trouble, and senior Israeli sources believe that it might not be implemented.

The sources got the impression that "the arms deal is now in financial straits and the outcome will only be hot air."

The Syrian-Soviet talks began about a year ago. Syria wanted to procure from the USSR sophisticated fighting equipment, including antiaircraft systems, radars, MiG-29's, Sukhoi-24's, communications equipment, surface-to-surface missiles, and T-72 tanks.

The arms deal is worth between $2 billion and $3 billion, which Syria is supposed to receive from the Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, for its participation in Desert Storm.

The Soviets reached an understanding in principle with Syria on the details of the deal and demanded an immediate cash payment. They also demanded from the Syrians $10 billion to pay off debts for previous arms deals.

It has also been learned that the Saudi money has not yet been transferred to Syria.

Afghanistan

Daily Cited on ICO Treatment of Afghan Issue

LD0608094391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 5, BAKHTAR—The Organisation of Islamic Conference [OIC] is having an inward evaluation of significant Islamic complications in the Turkish city of Istanbul at the ministerial level, stresses an article published by daily KABUL TIMES today.

The four precedent advents of OIC have had the problem of Afghanistan at its deliberations but the discords existing among the Islamic countries not only blocked any breakthrough in the said issue but in the meantime pooled new complications on the way to the final solution of the matter.

The conference composed of 45 representations encompassing 700 to one billion Muslims over the world did not possess the required adequacies for the solution of the issue of Afghanistan as one of the major centers for the preservation of Islamic heritage.

This year's session of the OIC is being convened under fresh climatic conditions under which the Islamic world is continously being exposed to new complicated [as received] of unprecedented menace.

The war in the Gulf created great challenges vis-a-vis the Islamic states, the repercussion of which is brought in some new imbalances in the political positions of the Muslim countries.

The Afghan problem would still remain as a major discussion item.

The visit made by the Syrian vice president to Afghanistan would obviously strengthen the hands of a number of Islamic countries who are for the peaceful solution of the Afghan problem.

If the OIC could at least cold-bloodedly work for a formulation for the political solution of the Afghan conflict in the context of the UN five-point statement it could well attain an important demarcation of success.

The acceptance of this statement by the OIC will (?create) new possibilities for the mobilisation of Islamic potentials behind the idea of political solution of the Afghan issue, particularly the potential of those countries who still retain considerable influence with the Mujahiddin groupings such as Saudi Arabia, Iran and Pakistan, who would henceforth possess more unrestrained hand for action.

The conference most probably will assume the middle of the road policy as is expected by the international community.

The results of the Istanbul assembly on Afghanistan while it also leads to the preparations for the Islamic summit is of great significance and if the conference succeeds in supporting the political solution of the Afghan issue would certainly contribute to the international struggle for ending one of the most horrible regional wars and would look further Muslim massacre. [sentence as received]

The Afghan people are looking forward with all expectations to the results of the conference that may certainly come out from the wisdom of a political approach.

Government Protests 'Provocative' Pakistani Acts

LD0608204291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The charge d' affaires of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs this afternoon, 15 Asad 1370 [6 August]. A strong official protest note from the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed to him by Abdol Ahad Wolasi, director of the first political department of the ministry. Part of the note states:

One of the fundamental tasks and duties enshrined in the five-point statement of the UN secretary general, which was also officially supported by the Government of Pakistan, is to help, encourage, and broaden the process of an intra-Afghan dialogue to achieve a peaceful political solution to the question of Afghanistan—not to instigate the interlocutors and hostile sides to resort to provocative measures that result in the intensification of war and bloodshed in Afghanistan. The provocative actions by Pakistani authorities—such as their recent unofficial and irresponsible statements concerning the solution of the question of Afghanistan, their recent meetings with a number of leaders of the Afghan opposition, and the imposition of diktat and giving them provocative and hostile advise to them, etc.—are not only examples of vain efforts by Pakistani authorities, but are in categorical contradiction with the growing process of a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan: the five-point declaration by the UN secretary general, the resolutions of the Nonaligned Movement, the resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the articles of the Geneva Accords, and all accepted norms and standards of international relations. It is open interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

It was concluded in the note that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan strongly protests such provocative actions by the Pakistani authorities and resolutely demands that the government of that country refrains from continuing such actions which entail grave consequences for relations between the two countries.

Commentary Views 'Militarism'

LD0608230691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Commentary by unidentified political commentator]

[Text] Although the five-point peace plan by UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar brought bright prospects for peace in our country, the two-faced policy of Pakistan is, however, still a cause for concern in the practical realization of the plan. Pakistan, itself drowning in a whirlpool of internal problems and in which every day terror, murder, kidnapping, and plunder increases, is still under severe pressure by the military circles of that country. It does not intend to refrain from openly interfering in the internal affairs of our country and eliminate real obstacles from the path to reach peace in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani publication MASHRIQ recently wrote that Pakistan, in connection with the question of Afghans, follows a two-faced policy. It talks, on the one hand, about a political solution and, on the other hand, resorts to financing, arming, and encouraging the extremists. A wide supply of military goods on the border with Afghanistan still continues and dozens of trucks of weapons and ammunition are transported. The Khyber-Peshawar railroad, which was inactive for a long time, was reactivated and used for military movements. Also, recent military provocations by Pakistan to intensify war in the border provinces of our country were exposed in a letter addressed to the UN secretary general from the Afghan foreign minister. Perez de Cuellar was informed that contrary to the pledges by the Pakistani Government authorities vis-a-vis the UN secretary general's peace plan, some Pakistani circles, in continuation of their past military interference, intend to put further pressure on Gardez City and a number of other cities. For this purpose serious changes took place in the placement of that country's border units.

In this way the lack of sincerity and two-facedness in the policy of Pakistan concerning the solution of the question of Afghanistan was revealed and proves the foul intentions of the authorities of that country regarding the peace plan of the UN secretary general and the consolidation of peace and stability in the region. As it is known, militarism, which has been the real policy of Pakistan for more than a decade, still controls the principle threads and fundamental veins of policy in that country. The assessment of the annual draft budget of Pakistan shows well that it, more than ever before, relies on military expenditures. Its military budget increased 11.6 percent in current years. Some 98 percent of the current year's military budget was allocated to military expenditure and foreign loans. The state was also given the authority to increase the military budget from 63 billion to 71 billion Pakistani rupees in the current year. This fact very well proves to what extent militarism held sway over general policies in that country. There is no doubt that the continuation of a militarist sway over policy in Pakistan, which was so far rendered under the pretexts of a threat from India and the problem of our country, is not only in the interest of peace and stability in the region, but it never was and will never be in the interest of that persecuted nation either. The daily increasing internal problems, the increase of murders, kidnappings, and looting in that country—and the fruitlessness of serious attempts by the Pakistani Government toward collecting weapons from the people—are in themselves clear evidence of the harmful influences of the continuation of militarism in that country's policy.

The peace-loving people of our country, who are completely weary of the continuation of the war in their land and consider it outside interference, resolutely condemn the hypocritical policy of Pakistan and curse the fundamentalist groups who are acting as agents of this two-faced policy and continue fratricide in our land. The Military Intelligence Service of Pakistan and some other Pakistani military circles are viewed as the most important reason for the continuation of fratricide in Afghanistan.

As DER SPIEGEL recently wrote, now all the mojahedin, in particular the Kandahar mojahedin, say that we listen to the demands of the people and not the words of provocateurs and those with grudges against Pakistan.

Ministers Meet USSR Republican Delegation

LD0708061391 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0511 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug 6 (BAKHTAR)—Eng. 'Abdul Samad Salim deputy-premier met Lakim Kayumov, minister of foreign affairs of the Tadjik SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] who arrived yesterday in Kabul.

A press dept of the Prime Ministry reports the interlocutors focussed their attention on issues regarding friendly, historical, cultural and economic relations between the RA [Republic of Afghansitan]-Tadjik SSR as well as friendly and traditional relations among the RA neighbouring provinces and Soviet Central Asian republics based on direct cooperation.

They exchanged views on establishing joint ventures, continuation and expansion of cooperation between the academies of sciences of the RA-Tadjik SSR, determined fields of research and growth of productive sources as well as matters of mutual interest.

The guest delegation promised wholehearted cooperatation in the fields.

Ghulam Muhayuddin Shahbaz, minister of planning met Lakim Kayumov, foreign affairs minister of the Tadjik SSR and his delegation in his office in Kabul today.

In the meeting they exchanged views on the expansion of commercial and economic relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Tadjik SSR as well as the assistance Tadjik SSR in meeting the urgent needs of the people of Afghanistan.

According to another report Dr. Muhammad Anwar Shamas, minister of higher and vocational education, and chairman of the Afghan-Soviet friendship association, met Lakim Kayumov today.

They talked about the educational systems, vocational and technical training, exchange of experts and providing facilities for training in the fields of literature, language and training of engineering cadres, the BIA [BAKHTAR Information Agency] reports.

The guest delegation pledged all-out support to the Afghan side.

'Abdul Kabir Ranjbar chairman of the RA Academy of Sciences met the said delegation in Kabul as well during which matters related to consolidation and deepening of scientific, cultural and expansion of scientific research activities were discussed.

Similarly Mohd Hyder Pardis [name as received], chairman of the Afghanistan Artists Association had a meeting with the delegation.

During the meeting they stressed the need for expansion of cultural cooperation between the RA-Tadjik SSR Artists Associations.

The delegation took part in a banquet arranged in their honour by the RA Artists Union Chairman at the headquarters of that association.

[Kabul BAKHTAR in English at 0419 GMT on 7 August, in a report datelined Kabul, 6 August, adds: "Zakim Shah, minister of commerce, met in his office the delegation of Tadjik SSR headed by H.E. Lakim Kayumov, foreign minister of that republic on Aug 5, 1991.

"They exchanged views on the expansion of trade relations between the republic of Afghanistan and Tadjik SSR.

"According to a BAKHTAR reporter the delegation met also Gilani Kargar, president of the direct cooperation of the council of ministers today. They talked about increasing cooperation in different spheres between the Republic of Afghanistan and Uzbek republic, particularly, in the neighbouring provinces."]

Military Operations in Nangarhar Reported

LD0608205891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Units of the armed forces carried out military operations yesterday around Nangarhar Province and along the Kabul-Jalalabad highway.

According to the BAKHTAR Information Agency [BIA] military section, as a result of this operation a number of extremists, including Mansur, Zahir, Sher Ahmad, Faqirollah, and Abdol Malik—five of their ringleaders—were crushed and a number of extremists, including Mahmud, a ringleader of the fundamentalist Khalis group, were seriously injured. In the course of this operation one artillery piece, two mortars, and two communication sets were seized. One large weapons and ammunition depot, one armored vehicle, seven transport vehicles, two BM-1 sets, three BM- 12 sets, one mortar, two rocket launchers, and several strong positions and hideouts of the extremists were destroyed.

The positions and headquarters of the warmongering extremist groups around Zabol Province were subjected to crushing blows by the armed forces yesterday.

The BIA's military section reported that as a result of this action a number of the extremists were crushed. Two artillery pieces, one missile launcher, four mortars, and 13 strong positions of the extremsits were destroyed.

Bangladesh

Bill for Switch to Parliamentary Rule Passed

BK0708014291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1904 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 7 (AFP)—Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government pushed through parliament early Wednesday a crucial constitutional amendment reverting Bangladesh to a parliamentary system after 16 years of presidential rule.

The 12th constitutional amendment bill received 307 votes in favour and none against in the 330-seat house. Abstentions were not recorded.

MPs [members of parliament] earlier adopted an 11th amendment bill ratifying the appointment of acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed, who succeeded deposed President Hussain Mohamad Ershad on December 6.

The bill, passed with 278 votes in favour and none against, also allows Ahmed to return to his post as chief justice of the Supreme Court after a successor is elected.

Both bills, which required a two-thirds majority, were debated for at least a week following approval by a joint parliamentary committee comprising representatives of the ruling and opposition parties.

The 12th amendment changing the form of government will be put to a national referendum before it is formally enforced. The election commission is expected to call the referendum for some time next month.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, who endorsed both bills during the debate, said Tuesday he hoped reverting to parliamentary democracy would "bring about political stability" in this volatile South Asian country.

Analysts said the new system would end the current dual administration of the president and prime minister, enabling the latter's four-month-old government to function effectively.

Both were elected in national polls February 27, the first in Bangladesh's 20-year history.

Analysts viewed passage of the landmark bills as the first major political victory for Zia, 46, Bangladesh's first

woman prime minister and the widow of president Ziaur Rahman, who was assassinated in an abortive 1981 coup.

Former BCCI Depositors Stage Hunger Strike

BK0608115591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 6 (AFP)—Some 30 local clients of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) began a hunger strike here Tuesday demanding the bank's immediate reopening in Bangladesh.

The strikers held placards and banners outside the bank's main office in downtown Motijheel District and also threatened to burn themselves alive if the Bangladesh authorities did not refund their assets, a spokesman for the newly-formed BCCI Depositors' Association said.

Their assets were frozen July 6 when the central Bangladesh bank suspended BCCI's operation here following instructions from the bank's major shareholders in Abu Dhabi and in line with similar action against BCCI branches in other countries.

Spokesman Kaiser Mohammad Quayum did not give details of the planned self-immolation, but said the eight-hour fast would continue daily until the government accepted their demands. Quayum said most local depositors were in a distressed condition because of the closure and called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to intervene to resolve the BCCI crisis in Bangladesh.

Four BCCI branches in Bangladesh were closed leaving more than 40,000 clients with no access to about six billion taka (166 million U.S. dollars).

The Bangladesh bank earlier gave an assurance that the interests of BCCI clients would be protected while it decided the bank's future after considering audit reports and legal options. But Quayum accused the authorities of being indecisive and moving at a "snail's pace."

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan had a weekend stopover in Abu Dhabi where he reportedly asked the local subsidiary—Bank of Credit and Commerce Emirates (BCCE)—to take over BCCI branches in Bangladesh.

Ahsan, who was on his way to Istanbul for the Islamic foreign ministers conference, told the local daily KHALEEJ TIMES that the request would be formally made to the BCCE by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman during the latter's planned visit to Abu Dhabi August 12.

Abu Dhabi Saturday renamed the BCCE as the National Union Bank.

India

Surface-to-Air Missile Successfully Tested

BK0708125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] India today successfully launched Prithivi-3 ground-to-air missile at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Announcing this at a press conference in Bombay, the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, said the ground-to-air missile was launched at 1058 [0428 GMT] this morning. With this India has now joined the select group of five countries having this capability.

President Cancels Overseas Trip Due to 'Economy'

BK0608161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has cancelled his proposed visit to Turkey, Italy, and Chile next month on grounds of economy. A press release said in New Delhi today that the president has also canceled his sojourn at Rashtrapati Nilayam [presidential retreat], Hyderabad, and the connected tour program of Andhra Pradesh from the 17th of this month.

Commentary Notes Prospects for Better PRC Ties

BK0608134591 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Professor S.N. Dhar commentary]

[Text] India and China, who among themselves account for two fifths of the world's population, are in the process of mending their fences and moving from an era of confrontation to an age of peaceful coexistence. The 50-year old cold war between the two superpowers—the Soviet Union and the U.S.A.—is getting resolved. The two presidents have only recently signed an agreement to reverse the nuclear arms race. The agreement also signifies economic cooperation between the two giants.

India and China are also moving in the direction of solving their border dispute, which has been lying dormant for about three decades. A number of meetings at the political as well as official level have taken place betwen the two sides since the visit of the then prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, to Beijing in 1988. That visit had a very good fallout and his meeting with Deng Xiaoping was very fruitful. Mr. Gandhi's visit was followed by an exchange of delegations who talked about the border and the economic relationship between the two countries. We have had commercial delegations from China who have looked at our production lines and indicated that they might be interested in certain appropriate technology from India. Our delegations have also gone to China and looked at various development processes in that country. Recently, the then deputy prime minister, Mr. Devi Lal, visited Beijing and came back with a notion of using smaller tractors and other technologies for better and larger production. In February

the then foreign minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, visited Beijing where he had extensive talks with the Foreign Minister Mr. Qian Qichen. He also met the prime minister, Mr. Li Peng, and the vice premier, Mr. Wu Xueqian. One of the concrete results of his visit was the decision to revive two consulates general—India's in Shanghai and China's in Bombay. Both Shanghai and Bombay are the trade centers of the two countries and the establishment of consulates general in these cities will help to identify and expand items of mutual trade, commerce, and industry. China has been exporting petroleum products, art goods, and manufactured items to a number of countries. India can offer a number of items in the field of chemicals, jute, iron, and electric generation.

Both India and China are in the process of freeing their industry and economies from state control, giving freer and larger play by market forces and free enterprise. In the circumstances, it should be possible for the two countries to expand their trade, improve their relations, and enter into an era of mutual benefit. It would be desirable that both the countries work for mutual understanding and trust, thus reducing tension on the 6,000 km-long border over the Himalayas. This would reduce infructuous defense expenditure and generate better understanding between the two sides. In this context, China should consider holding back supplies of arms and equipment and technologies to develop a delivery system in Pakistan, which is making efforts to go nuclear. It would be in the interest of the three countries—India, China, and Pakistan—that everything is done to restore peace and amity between them, and they are encouraged to enter into trade and commerce regimes to mutual benefit.

In April, India and China signed an agreement under which certain products were identified for promotion in the two countries. It was also agreed that the two countries will share information on the development, upgrading, and absorption of technology. There would also be an exchange of trade delegations. There would be an exchange of export groups for discussing steps for cooperation in areas of polyethylene and catalyst, plastic, alloys, [word indistinct] and compounding and produce application. Both sides also agreed to encourage dissemination on petrochemicals and chemicals industries in both the countries. The Indian side proposed that Petrochemicals Data Services, PDS, would be their (?nodal) agency for this purpose and from the Chinese side it will be the Scientific and Technical Information Research Institute of the Ministry of Chemical Industry. Both sides also agreed to organize a workshop within 1991-92 for determining cooperative matters.

The relationship between the two sides is now poised for becoming normal, smooth, and friendly and one can hope that this process will be completed soon.

ROK Delegation Visits Lok Sabha Speaker

BK0608031091 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] A four-member parliamentary delegation of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea today called on the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil. Matters of mutual interest were discussed. The delegation also called on the minister of parliamentary affairs, Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad. The delegation will leave for Colombo tomorrow.

No Information Reported on Acts by BCCI

BK0708133691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The finance minister says there is no specific instance of definite information about payment to Indian politicians and bureaucrats and financing of terrorist organizations by the Bombay branch of the Bank of Credit and Commercial International—BCCI. Dr. Manmohan Singh told the Lok Sabha in a statement that from the information available from intelligence agencies and the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] nothing that impinges on the security of the country has come to the notice of the government. He said the RBI moved the Bombay High Court on the 15th of last month seeking liquidation of the Bombay branch of the BCCI and appointing the State Bank of India [SBI] as liquidator. The court has passed an interim order appointing SBI as provisional liquidator which is now making an inventory of assets and liabilities. Earlier, the RBI on the sixth of last month ordered the BCCI Bombay branch to suspend its operations with immediate effect and appointed two of its officers as observers to ensure that the interest of depositors and creditors are protected.

He said the total value of assets of the BCCI in RBI's view is more than liabilities and, therefore, the interests of depositors are safe.

High Commissioner to Belize Accredited

BK0608150291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Mr. R. Sen, India's ambassador designate to Mexico has been concurrently accredited as High Commissioner to Belize. This was announced in New Delhi today by a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry.

Pakistan Accused of Arming Kashmir Terrorists

BK0608145491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The government has offered to hold talks with the terrorists if they are willing to join the mainstream. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, made this offer while replying to a debate on a bill seeking to replace the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Amendment Ordinance 1991. The house later passed the bill extending the act for two years.

The home minister said he will visit the three troubled states of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam to assess the situation and approach the problem afresh.

Dwelling at length on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chavan charged Pakistan with financing and arming terrorists in the state.

On the Punjab elections, Mr. Chavan said the government is prepared to discuss the issue with the opposition on the proposed disqualification of the candidates who do not swear in the name of the Constitution.

Minister's Charges Detailed

BK0608163891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The home minister says that Islamabad is funding, financing, training, and arming the militants in Kashmir and Punjab. Replying to a discussion in the Rajya Sabha today on the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities Prevention Amendment Bill, Mr. Chavan said he won't be surprised if Pakistani armymen are crossing over into the valley in the guise of terrorists and engaging our security forces. He said Pakistan should know that it will not be supported on the issue by other countries. Mr. Chavan referred to Britain which had recently stated that it will not support plebiscite in Kashmir and is against any assistance to the terrorists. The home minister said the government will soon initiate a political approach in both Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. He, however, warned that there will be no slackening in the ongoing drive against militants. He said he will soon visit the troubled states of Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir to assess the situation and approach the problems afresh.

On Punjab, Mr. Chavan said the government is keen to hold elections at the earliest. Regarding the proposed law banning terrorists and their harborers from contesting the election, the home minister said talks with the opposition leaders on the proposed legislation will be held soon. Allaying the fears of some of the members from the opposition and the treasury benches on the possibility of misusing the Act, Mr. Chavan said the states have been instructed not to use the provisions of the TADA [Terrorists and Disruptive Activities] Act against normal, political, social and trade union activists. He also offered to review any case of misuse, if brought to his notice.

Taking part in the debate, the members said excesses should not be committed in the name of the Act and innocent people should not he harassed. Some members felt that present Acts are sufficient to deal with the terrorists.

Later, the house passed the bill by a voice vote extending the Act for two years. The bill replaces the ordinance promulgated in May.

Earlier, Mr. Subramaniam Swamy of JDS [Janata Dal-Samajwadi] withdrew his statutory resolution disapproving the ordinance.

BJP Demand To Abrogate Kashmir Article Rejected

BK0608164291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Government has turned down the demand of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] to abrogate Article 370 [giving special status to Jammu and Kashmir) saying that such a step will aggravate problems in the Kashmir valley. Replying to the debate on the Jammu and Kashmir Criminal Laws Second Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha today, the home minister, Mr. Chavan, reiterated the government's determination that administrative action will continue against the militants and the life of the people will be protected.

The house later passed the bill after all the amendments were withdrawn.

Tamils Killed Gandhi Possibly for Military Aid

BK0608133091 Madras DINAMALAR in Tamil 29 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Colombo, 29 July—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have been employing sophisticated radar equipment to elude the Indian and Sri Lankan navies.

This radar equipment was delivered to the LTTE in the last week of May. It is used mainly to hide from the naval ships off northeastern Sri Lanka.

After the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi the LTTE cadres obtained sophisticated radar and antiaircraft guns. Since then the LTTE has been carrying out heavy offensives on the Elephant Pass camp and has rejected the government's offer for negotiations too.

International organizations could have entered into an agreement with the LTTE to assassinate Rajiv Gandhi. After the assassination these sophisticated weapons could have been given to the LTTE as a gift.

Presently the LTTE has half a dozen antiaircraft guns and three radars. Of the three radars, two have been fitted to trucks and one to a boat. This boat has been used by prominent LTTE leaders. Sri Lankan military intelligence has revealed this shocking news.

Radars can detect ships sailing at a distance. The LTTE cadres detect the movement of Indian and Sri Lankan naval ships through these radars and move from one place to another on boats when these ships are not in sight. Sri Lankan military intelligence sources say that that is why the LTTE militants are still easily moving to and from Tamil Nadu.

Indian intelligence sources are of the opinion that only foreign forces that wanted to destabilize India would

have supplied this sophisticated equipment and weapons to the LTTE through the extremists from Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Police Unearth Tamil Caches of Arms, Ammunition

BK0708002591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1709 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 6 (AFP)—Indian police waging a crackdown on Sri Lankan Tamil militants have unearthed two massive arms dumps in southern India and are searching for a secret rebel radio station in the coastal region, reports said Tuesday.

Police on Tuesday seized 90,000 detonators and 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of chemicals used in the manufacture of explosives from Samayapuram village in Tamil Nadu state's Tiruchi district, PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] quoted officials as saying they also arrested one suspect, an associate of a local physician reported arrested Monday in the same district after police seized a much bigger arms dump from his house, the news agency said.

The daily Hindu newspaper said some 100,000 detonators, several pistols, explosives and three wireless sets were seized Monday from a doctor's house in coastal Tamil Nadu, where detectives are hunting Sri Lankan Tamil rebels.

The doctor has links to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), it said, adding that his house was a hideout for rebels evading the security dragnet.

The LTTE, Sri Lanka's dominant separatist group, is suspected of engineering the May 21 assassination of former premier Rajiv Gandhi in the midst of an election campaign in the Tamil Nadu town of Sriperumpudur.

The Hindu said rebels used the doctor's house as an ordnance depot and storage area for medicine, equipment and clothes for the LTTE.

Tamil Nadu, where the group has an extensive network, is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea called the Palk Strait, which LTTE guerrillas frequently cross to smuggle men and material.

Police have ruled out any connection between Gandhi's murder and the Indian doctor, identified as Gopalakrishnan, the daily said.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu police have launched a hunt for an LTTE radio centre in the state following reports from an Indian naval ship of the town of Madurai that it recently intercepted strange messages, PTI said. Police have sounded an alert in Tamil Nadu and neighbouring states for the secret telecommunication centre, it added.

Federal detectives have arrested more than a dozen people in connection with Gandhi's death and are looking for an LTTE leader who allegedly masterminded the assassination.

Two suspected Sri Lankan militants have committed suicide to escape arrest after police cornered them.

Further on Discovery

BK0708041891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu police have unearthed a big cache of arms and ammunition in Tiruchirapalli District. According to an official spokesman in Madras, the seizure is perhaps the biggest in recent times by the special branch of the police set up to counter militant activities. The haul includes over 90,000 detonators, a large quantity of chemicals used for making bombs, and a sophisticated network of communication system. One person was arrested during the raid. The police had seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition from the same area on Monday. The unearthing of the arms comes close on the heels of the discovery and seizure of a clandestine arms manufacturing network in Coimbatore District last week.

Sabotage Suspected in Assam Train Mishap

BK0608162691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] In Assam, two persons were killed when 12 coaches of the Delhi-Guwahati Brahmaputra Mail derailed near Rangia this afternoon. According to railway sources, three persons received minor injuries. It is suspected to be a case of sabotage as the fish plates were found missing.

Radio Reports on Assam Situation

BK0708033691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, has reaffirmed the state government's stand that all ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam] activists will be released if it agrees to a meaningful dialogue within the framework of the Constitution. Replying to a debate on the governor's address in the state assembly, Mr. Saikia expressed the hope that the ULFA will release all eight hostages. Commenting on the Bodo issue, the chief minister said his government will try to solve all problems, but ruled out any division of the state.

Farmers Exempt From Fertilizer Price Hike

BK0608144691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The government of India has fully exempted the small and marginal farmers from the hike in fertilizer prices announced in the budget. For others, the average increase has been reduced from 40 to 30 percent.

Modifying the budget proposals for 1991-92, the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that a mechanism will be worked out to give full benefit of any increase in procurement prices to the

small and marginal farmers. The finance minister said the relief announced will mean an additional subsidy of over 400 crore rupees.

Allaying apprehensions of the members that the budgetary proposals will lead to inflation, Dr. Singh said that the steps taken will bring down prices and inflation this year. He cautioned against creating a psychology of scarcity which can play havoc with the national economy. He appealed to the leaders of public opinion to help maintain the nation's confidence in its ability to overcome the economic crisis.

Referring to the IMF loan, the finance minister said the talks are at a preliminary stage and no conditions against the national interest will be accepted. The finance minister, however, rejected the demand of members for reducing the cooking gas price and raising the income tax exemption limit.

Home Minister Denies Telephone Taps on MP's

BK0608101291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, informed the Rajya Sabha today that his ministry has not issued orders to tap the telephones of any member of parliament. He, however, said that he will find out from the minister of telecommunications, if the telephones are being tapped in any state and will take necessary action in the matter.

Earlier, Mr. H. Hanumantappa, Congress-I, member from Karnataka, raising the issue wanted the government to clarify if his telephone is being tapped. Joining the issue, some members belonging to the opposition benches wanted an assurance from government that members of parliament are free to function.

Iran

Nuri Departs for Syria With Rafsanjani Message

LD0708080591 Tehran IRNA in English 0657 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 7, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri heading a delegation left Tehran for Damascus Wednesday morning with a written message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad. The message is said to be dealing with international issues, Palestinian problem and plans of the world arrogance to stabilize the Zionist regime.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah.

The interior ministers of Iran and Syria are to discuss regional and international matters, issues of mutual interest, consular relations, anti-narcotics campaign and security issues.

UN Envoy Protests Iraqi Cease-Fire Violations

LD0608114191 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] United Nations, New York, Aug. 6, IRNA—Iran's permanent envoy to the U.N. Kamal Kharrazi in a letter to the U.N. chief Monday protested against Iraq's violation of the cease-fire regulations and penetration of the Iraqi troops into the Iranian territory on Iran-Iraq border.

"A group of Iraqi soldiers attacked an Iranian armoured vehicle and stole the I.D. cards and passes of the Iranian soldiers in 'Oshnavieh' region, northwestern Iran, on July 18," Kharrazi said in his letter.

The letter added that the stolen I.D. cards and documments can be used in other infiltration operations. Therefore, the act itself is indicative of Iraq's ill-intentions and the baseless of its claims on violation of the cease-fire regulations by Iran.

UN Team Visits To Report on Iraqi War Damages

Damages Assessed

LD0308184991 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 03 Aug 91

[Text] The United Nations HQ (New York), Aug. 2, IRNA—The question of reconstruction as stated by Paragraph 7 of the Security Council Resolution 598 has been underlined, following the release of a U.N. report on damages inflicted on Iran during the Iraqi war.

"The (U.N.) mission found that the damage inflicted on the country's infrastructure was of a magnitude and nature that will require several years of repair or reconstruction, and in consequence restoration of services and production to the level that prevailed at the outbreak of the war could be seriously delayed" said the report.

On Thursday, U.N. chief Perez de Cuellar presented to the Security Council the report compiled by former undersecretary-general Abdul-Rahim Farah who for three weeks last June led a fact-finding mission to Iran and carried out on-site inspections of a large number of localities and installations damaged during the 8- year war.

"Of the country's 24 provinces, 5 became operational theatres of war and 11 others became targets of repeated attack by aircraft and missiles, these 16 provinces contained two-thirds of the country's population of 50 million..." noted the report.

It said that over 50 cities and towns and close to 4,000 villages suffered varying degrees of damage, including many that were levelled to the ground. The United Nations mission inspected several of these sites and was able to confirm the damage they had suffered.

"The war has had a direct and tragic impact on the civilian population. According to government estimates, 14,000 civilians were killed and 57,000 wounded, of

whom 37,000 are permanently disabled. In addition the authorities have to cope with the care and resettlement of nearly 1.25 million persons displaced by the war.

"The authorities have estimated direct damage to the economic sectors at 30,811,414 million rials, indirect damage to the same sectors is estimated at rls 34,535,360 million..." said the report.

The Abadan oil refinery, among the largest in the world, was virtually destroyed during the war, and Kharg Island—one of the world's largest oil-loading facilities—was badly devastated.

The United Nations mission visited several transport, power and telecommunication facilities damaged as a result of the war.

Although repair and reconstruction has been carried both during the war and since the August 20, 1988 cease-fire, "The U.N. mission observed that much of this reconstruction was done under war conditions and with improvized parts made from local or salvaged material. The consequence of this is that a great deal of the repairs carried out to date are 'band-aid' solution with limited life."

The U.N. probe team also confirmed most of the damage inflicted on cities and the ports of Khorramshahr and Abadan. "The destruction of Khorramshahr has deprived the country of its principal commercial and passenger port. In this context, the Shatt al-'Arab (Arvand Rud) [River] has been rendered useless by sunken ships, mines and explosives as well as siltation due to neglect," it said.

Agriculture, the mainstay of economy in the southern and western war devastated provinces, also suffered heavily as a result of the conflict "Large areas of arable and cultivated land were destroyed by the construction of revetments, embankments and vehicle-holding grounds and by the heavy traffic of tanks and other military vehicles. These conditions were exacerbated by the extensive laying of minefields, which continue to endanger life.

The United Nations mission focused mainly on the damage inflicted on the country's infrastructure and on the steps taken by government to repair the damage. The mission was not equipped to look into the question or indirect damage to the economy

Commentary on UN Report

NC0508114191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0350 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The first report prepared by a UN fact-finding team on the losses suffered by the Islamic Republic of Iran during the eight-year war was submitted to the UN Security Council last week. This detailed report, which follows the UN team's visit to war-damaged areas and installations, stresses that repairing the heavy damage inflicted on the Islamic Republic's infrastructure during the war will take considerable time and money. The UN team's visit came in fulfillment of Paragraph 7 of Resolution 598, under which the Security Council tasked the UN secretary general with reporting to it on the losses sustained by Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq to determine what kind of international assistance the two countries require. [passage omitted]

Although more than three years have passed since Iran accepted Resolution 598, not all of its eight paragraphs have been implemented. Had the resolution been implemented in full, especially as far as the official identification of the aggressor and his payment of reparations are concerned, then the aggressor's morale would not have been boosted and we would not have witnessed the military occupation of Kuwait exactly one year ago.

The Persian Gulf crisis, the six-week war, and the series of UN resolutions condemning Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and requiring it to pay compensation make us wonder why similiar decisiveness was not demonstrated in the case of Resolution 598. In any event, the second visit by the UN team guarantees that there is still time to implement all clauses of the resolution and to deal with the issue of damages and the identification of the aggressor in the Iran-Iraq war.

Thanks to its high degree of faith and morale, the Iranian nation is determined to advance toward reconstruction and peace. Progress in reconstruction, however, requires that the extent and type of damages be precisely determined. The UN team realized that reconstruction in Iran will be an extremely costly and protracted process as a result of its inspection tour.

The issue of war reparations is contingent on the identification of the aggressor, as stipulated by Paragraph 6 of Resolution 598. Therefore, the Security Council is expected to dispatch another delegation to Iran to do precisely this and to determine war reparations. Regional security requires prompt action by the United Nations.

UN Official Comments

LD0608181991 Tehran IRNA in English 1658 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 6, IRNA—The Islamic Republic and the United Nations are to study ways to fully implement the Security Council Resolution 598, head of the newly-established U.N. chief's bureau in Tehran Joseph Stephandes said here Tuesday.

In a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister for Educational Affairs 'Abbas Maleki, Stephandes said the bureau was opened in Tehran in order to supervise the thorough enforcement of Resolution 598.

Although Iran accepted 598 in July 1988 which led to the cease-fire in the Iraqi war a month later, some of its articles including those concerning the determination of the aggressor and payment of war reparations are yet to be implemented.

Even the article on the repatriation of POWs has not been enforced completely.

Stephandes requested more studies on ways of putting into force the resolution with assitance from the Islamic Republic, and proposed a joint meeting between the U.N. and the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies.

Maleki lauded U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's cooperation regarding 598, and thought that peace and security in the Persian Gulf region was possible with U.N. assistance.

Nepal & Bhutan

Four Civil Servants Wage Hunger Strike

BK0708004091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1725 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 6 (AFP)—Four civil servants have begun a hunger strike to pressure the Nepal Government to meet civil servants' demands for better pay and working conditions, a Nepal civil servants' organisation (NCSO) source said Tuesday.

The four, who began their strike late Monday, have vowed to fast to death if necessary, the source said.

A group of civil servants backed by the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist), the left-wing United People's Front and their student wings have agitated for the last five weeks for an incease in allowances and education, housing and transport facilities.

The government has said it cannot meet their demands this year because of the deteriorating economic situation in the country and has asked them to wait for at least a year, officials said.

More than 5,000 civil servants staged a protest demonstration in front of the central secretariat on Tuesday and marched to the area where the four are holding their hunger strike.

At a brief public meeting, they claimed the government was trying to buy time in the negotiations, which began Thursday.

A NCSO spokesman said "We have hardly met for five minutes each day since last Sunday as the official team put the pre-condition of ending our agitation before we start talks."

The NCSO delegation had asked the government to release all civil servants in police custody, remove the suspension placed on others and reinstate those dismissed, the spokesman said.

Following the agitation the government has detained more than 560 civil servants, suspended more than 1,000 others nationwide and dismissed more than 60 on disciplinary grounds, he said.

A home ministry spokesman said at least "95 percent of civil servants" were working normally and "only five percent of them under the instigation of the communists and other reactionaries are involved in the agitation to obstruct the smooth operation of the day-to-day works of the government."

Talks With India To Resume Early Sep

BK0608005491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1803 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug 5 (AFP)—Officials from India and Nepal will hold a second round of talks in the first week of September to finalize recommendations on cooperation between the neighboring countries, an official source said Monday.

A high-level Indian delegation led by Indian Cabinet Secretary Naresh Chandra left here Monday after a day of talks with Nepalese officials, which the source described as "very satisfactory."

The september talks, to be held in New Delhi, will cover economic cooperation, joint use of Nepal's water resources and renewal of trade and transit treaties, Chandra said before leaving for home.

Nepal-India Cooperation Task Force Meets

BK0408162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The first meeting of the India-Nepal task force was held in Kathmandu today. The delegations of the two countries held wide-ranging discussions on increasing bilateral cooperation in different fields. AIR [All India Radio] Kathmandu correspondent Harish Segon understands that a broad consensus was reached at the meeting to evolve a comprehensive framework of long-term economic cooperation. The two sides reviewed the progress of ongoing projects and considered the possibility of India-Nepal long-term cooperation in utilizing Nepal's rich water resources for mutual benefit.

Premier Welcomes Signing of START Treaty

BK0308132191 Hong Kong AFP in English 1236 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 3 (AFP)—Nepal heartily welcomed Saturday the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The pact, signed earlier this week in Moscow, reduces the two countries' nuclear arsenals by approximately 30 percent.

In his first major foreign policy statement, Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala said he hoped start would begin a process of reciprocal confidence building.

Koirala, who is also Nepal's foreign minister, was addressing the 44th assembly of the Nepal Council of World Affairs, and initiating a symposium on Nepal's foreign relations in the 1990s.

Koirala also supported a United Nations call to eliminate all nuclear and mass destruction weapons, adding that the savings could be used to protect the environment and tackle other world problems.

Koirala also welcomed recent progress toward a settlement of the Cambodian conflict, expressed his hope that the two Koreas would unite, and applauded steps toward democracy in Mongolia and Burma.

Regime Considers Gradual Autonomy for Media

BK0608105791 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 17 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, July 16 (RSS)—Communications Minister Basu Risal today said that His Majesty's Government was considering providing autonomy to official media in a gradual manner at the same time expecting impartiality from them.

Minister Risal said this at today's session of the Lower House in reply to a point raised by Subas Chandra Nembang of CPN-(UML) [Communist Party of Nepal—United Marxist Leninist] on a news item recently televised by the Nepal Television.

The minister also assured that necessary steps would be taken to remove the errors occurring here and there in the communication media.

The opposition accusing the government of congressizing the official media and the ruling party accusing the media of giving priority to the CPN-(UML) [Communist Party of Nepal—United Marxist Leninist] activities was in itself an evidence of the impartiality of the official media, he observed.

Nepal Television and Radio Nepal are almost dependent on the news bulletin of the Rastriya Samachar Samiti [RSS], he said and added that the time factor compounded with other technical constraints made it impossible for the electronic media to broadcast all the news received.

The RASTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI tries to cover every event as far as possible but cannot release all the news in details because of the time constraint, he said.

He further clarified that the said news item broadcast by the Nepal Television was just a part of the one used in the earlier bulletin of the RASTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI, the remaining portion of which was in the latter bulletin which the television could not broadcast for technical reasons.

In this connection the Communication Minister also informed that the RSS releases five bulletins—morning, noon, afternoon, evening and night—a day.

He went on to say that the portion of the news that the television could not use in its news bulletin were covered by the Gorkhapatra and the RISING NEPAL the next day.

Asking all the parliamentarians not to make a mountain out of a mole hill, Minister Risal urged them to understand the technical and other problems of the communication media.

On the occasion, he also gave word to provide the Gorkhapatra to all parliamentarians on a daily basis.

Tabling a call attention motion, MP [member of parliament] Subas Membang accused that while broadcasting the news on the function organized to congratulate the newly elected vice-chairman of the National Council Aishwarya Lal Pradhanang at the City Hall on July 4, the Nepal Television excluded the speech of many speakers.

He also demanded impartiality on the part of radio Nepal, Nepal Television, Gorkhapatra and the Rising Nepal.

Pakistan

Trilateral Talks on Afghan Issue Slated 27 Aug

BK0708114891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] The second round of trilateral talks between Pakistan, Iran, and Afghan mujahidin (?convened) on the Afghan issue would be held in Tehran from the 27th of this month. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the talks would continue for three days. He said a three-member Soviet delegation led by a senior official, Mr. Nikolay Azonovich Kavlov, will be arriving in Islamabad on Sunday for talks with Pakistani foreign office officials on Afghan problem and bilateral relations. The visit is in response to a visit by an official of Pakistan's foreign office to Moscow in May last to exchange views on Afghan issue.

4 'Terrorists' Arrested for Assassination Plot

BK0608163691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Aug 91 p 12

[Text] Karachi, Aug 5—The CIA [Central Bureau of Investigation] sleuths in raids have apprehended four terrorists of Al-Zulfigar Organisation (AZO) who were given the assignment to eliminate the President, Prime Minister, Sindh Chief Minister, leader of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] and other VIPs.

Sindh IGP, [Inspector General of Police] G. Moinuddin, addressing a press conference at the police head office Monday, identified the arrested men as Muzzafar, Sajjad, Mohammad Iqbal and Asim Hussain.

The police has also seized four Klashnikovs, 36 Soviet-made dangerous explosives/bombs, two 7 mm rifles, three revolvers, two pistols, one mouser and a large quantity of live cartridges. The CIA hounds have also arrested one Deedar Ali, an activist of PPP, [Pakistan People's Party] who the police claims is involved in Pucca Qilla, old Sukkur area and Qayyumabad bus firing incidents in which a large number of persons were killed and injured.

According to the Sindh police chief, the four AZO men who specialise in terrorist and sabotage activities, have given names of some prominent personalities of the country, including a politician, who provided assistance to them.

The police has also seized four vehicles from them which they had snatched from different parts of the metropolis for conducting their operations.

Besides being involved in terrorist activities, these men also committed other crimes such as dacoities.

The police has also recovered three television sets, a VCR, and other valuables including jewellery from their custody.

The AZO men had dumped weapons in their hideouts which were located in different parts of the city.

During the initial interrogations they revealed that their high command had issued them instructions to carry out their assignments at the earliest as several of their colleagues have already been netted.

The arrested men, according to the police, said that in return of their services they were paid huge amounts.

The police officials, however, avoided to disclose the names of prominent personalities who provided them with sophisticated weapons and gave them the assignments.

The arrested persons are being grilled by seasoned police officers and some startling disclosures and arrests are expected soon.

Shiite Youths Attack Government Offices

BK0508112591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 5 (AFP)—Some 200 youths demanding the arrest of the murderers of a Shi'ite leader ransacked key Pakistani Government offices Monday and damaged a number of vehicles, police said here.

The slogan-chanting youths, some clad in shrouds, entered the walled central secretariat, which houses several ministries, and attacked the offices, a police officer said.

Police fired tear gas shells and charged the crowd with batons. At least eight people were injured, two of them seriously, witnesses said. Several people were detained, the police said without giving any figures.

The demonstration was staged to commemorate the third anniversary of the assassination of the Shi'ite religious and political leader Arif Hussain al-Hussaini. Hussaini, a disciple of the late Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeyni, was assassinated in the north-western city of Peshawar on August 5, 1988.

The killers remained untraced but the minority Shi'ite community in the Sunni-dominated Pakistan has accused a former governor of the North-West Frontier Province, Lieutenant General Fazel Haq of hatching a murder conspiracy.

Haq, who has denied any involvement, was arrested but later released on bail, prompting accusations from Shi'ite leaders that the case was being shelved.

Bhutto Fights To Survive in Politics

BK0508023691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0146 GMT 5 Aug 91

[By Masood Shah]

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 5 (AFP)—Buffetted by personal and political woes, former Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto remains in the limelight a year after her dismissal, struggling to survive what she calls "civil martial law."

Bhutto, 38, still faces possible disqualification from politics. Her husband is behind bars, and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) she inherited from her executed father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, 12 years ago is no longer a vibrant force.

PPP sources, attributing the demoralization to large-scale victimization particularly in Bhutto's home province of Sindh, claim at least 3,000 party activists are in prison and say draconian laws are being enacted to further suppress the opposition.

Bhutto's close aides say her only choice is to fight back, and they cite the hunger strike by opposition leaders which she led Sunday as an indication of her defiance, 12 months after President Ghulam Ishaq Khan sacked her for alleged massive corruption and incompetence.

"We will not take the repression lying down," Bhutto said at the monsoon rain-soaked camp near the presidency here as she ended the day-long political fast with a threat to hold a big anti-government rally in Lahore later this month.

Independent observers say the dice are too loaded against her and the PPP cadre, under multifarious pressures, lacks the resilience to sustain any agitation against the government.

Others say the opposition could profit from growing dissent in the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), deteriorating law and order and political problems in ethnically divided Sindh Province, and economic difficulties in the wake of dwindling foreign assistance.

Amid the furor over tough new legislation aimed at curbing lawlessness in the country, which Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says is essential to wipe out heinous crimes, Bhutto is trying to create a broader front, PPP sources said.

Bhutto, calling the new rules "black laws," has said the amassing of extraordinary judicial power by the federal government was tantamount to imposing "civil martial law" in the country. The laws authorize sentences ranging from imprisonment to death for crimes such as banditry, kidnapping for ransom and terrorism.

Bhutto is trying to revive links with former colleagues including veteran centrist leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, who was active in the pro-democracy movement during the military rule of Bhutto's predecessor Mohammed Ziaul Haq, they say. "We will be slowly, slowly building up the tempo so that the government can respond to our demands, and not ignore them," Bhutto said Sunday.

Despite the recent two-thirds majority vote for the prime minister's special powers legislation in parliament, speculation about a national unity government continues in the press and political circles.

Observers say Bhutto may eventually play a trump card—mass resignation by her associates from the central and provincial assemblies.

Although strongly critical of the Sharif government, Bhutto insists that the president is behind all her troubles.

"The president is our main enemy," she said, calling Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali the president's "henchman." Ali, a former associate of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has often vowed to crush the PPP and has succeeded in throwing it into disarray in the southern province. For months he has targeted Bhutto's husband, jailed businessman Asef Ali Zardari.

On the eve of the hunger strike he announced a mass defection of 18 PPP leaders including 15 members of the national and provincial assemblies. "I will turn the PPP into a save-Zardari committee," Ali said. Zardari, jailed on charges of murder and kidnapping, could face the death penalty if convicted.

Bhutto has often offered cooperation with Sharif's federal government on the condition he put an end to the vendetta against her and her party.

The campaign has weakened her, but she still appears indispensable as the driving force of the PPP.

One year after her removal as the first woman prime minister in the Moslem world, the PPP rank and file still regard her as a charismatic and energetic leader, albeit with an arrogance that betrays her privileged background. And they acknowledge privately that without her, the PPP will fade like water into the sand.

Says 20,000 Supporters Arrested

BK0508144091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1359 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 5 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Monday charged the government with arresting some 20,000 of her party workers and supporters. Bhutto, who was sacked on August 6, 1990 by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for alleged massive corruption and incompetence, said the government was victimising its opponents in her home province Sindh.

Since her ouster she said 20,000 workers and supporters of her Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) have been arrested nationwide, adding the authorities had problems finding jail space for them all. No official comment was immediately available.

"The tyrants will do what they desire, but we will also fulfill our obligations," she said referring to a stepped-up opposition campaign to replace the nine-month old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Bhutto, who Sunday led a 12-hour hunger strike sponsored by her four-party Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) against "repression," rejected claims by several ministers that the opposition protest failed to gain public interest.

The strike was called against last month's constitutional amendment that gave extraordinary powers to the government to deal with a surge in crime, particularly in southern Sindh.

Bhutto, calling the new rules "black laws," said the amassing of extraordinary judicial powers by the federal government was tantamount to imposing "civil martial law" on the country.

The laws, which Sharif has said are essential to tackle law and order problems, authorize sentences ranging from imprisonment to death for crimes such as banditry, kidnapping for ransom and terrorism.

Calling upon the government to abolish "black laws" and release the arrested party workers, she warned that if the government "failed to meet our demands, the PDA will stage a big public demonstration in Lahore on August 14," to coincide with the country's independence day.

Kashmir Issue Resolution Proposed to ICO

Delegation Head Comments

BK0608064691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, secretary general for foreign affairs and leader of the Pakistani delegation to the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference, emphasized to the conference passing firm resolutions on Kashmir this year, as this problem has become more complicated and atrocities on innocent Kashmiris are increasing. In an interview to the Turkish newspaper, DAILY NEWS, he said that more than four lakh Indian troops are committing different kinds of crimes in occupied Kashmir. Human rights are being violated, women are humiliated, and holy places are disregarded. He said that the Kashmiris have been deprived of the right to self-determination since 1947, and that Pakistan, India, and the entire world community guaranteed that right by UN resolutions. Zaki said that Pakistan is willing to seek a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem. He reminded that last November the Pakistani prime minister met the Indian prime minister and talks were started. He said that Pakistan has made some successful efforts to minimize tensions with India. Pakistan, these days also, is telling India to resolve the Kashmir problem peacefully in accordance with the UN resolutions instead of carrying out atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

About the Organization of Economic Cooperation, the secretary general for foreign affairs said that there have long been close economic relations among Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey. There is a close solidarity among these countries on regional cooperation.

Draft Resolution Passed

BK0708060691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] In Istanbul, the Islamic countries' foreign ministers' conference passed a Pakistani draft resolution in which India was condemned for large scale violation of human rights in occupied Kashmir and for a continuous denial of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris. In the resolution, India was asked to allow international groups on human rights to visit occupied Kashmir. In the resolution, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization was empowered to form a three-member mission to visit occupied Kashmir immediately in order to ascertain the facts. Later, the mission will submit a comprehensive report on any violations of human rights to the secretary general. In the draft resolution, the chairman of the Islamic foreign ministers' conference was also asked to send a goodwill delegation to the region to make efforts to minimize tension between India and Pakistan and to resolve the Kashmir problem peacefully. In the resolution, there is a reminder that the need for a final solution to the Kashmir problem also was accepted in the Simla agreement. Observers understand that the resolution passed this year is tougher than last year's. They described the passage of the resolution as a big success for Pakistan and said it makes clear that Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir problem is right.

The political committee of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers' conference also passed a Pakistani resolution on Afghanistan without any change. In this resolution, special reference to a recently-held tripartite conference in Islamabad among Pakistan, Iran, and Afghan mojahedin and to the UN Secretary General's agendas for a political solution to this problem was given.

Delhi Radio—Kashmiri Leader Urges Withdrawal

BK0708091491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] A Pakistan-based Kashmir leader has called for the immediate withdrawal of the Pakistani forces from occupied Kashmir. Dr. Farooq Haider, the leader of a faction of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, told newspersons in Karachi that Islamabad should withdraw its armed forces from occupied Kashmir, Gilgit and Baltistan. He also demanded the dissolution of the Kashmir Council and the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs of Pakistan. The Council and the Ministry institutionalize Pakistan's control over occupied Kashmir.

A Pakistani daily reported that there is total disillusionment and despair among the people of occupied Kashmir. It says the people have understood that Islamabad is not a friend but only a master. The report says the capital of occupied Kashmir Muzaffarabad looks like a city under siege of the Pakistani forces.

The leader of Pakistan People's Party, Sardar Mohammad Hussain, has also demanded the withdrawl of Punjab Police and Frontier Constabulary from the occupied Kashmir.

Mohmand Agency Notes Drive Against Outlaws

BK0708091691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] A press note issued by the political administration, Mohmand Agency, says the administration of the agency started a clean up operation to apprehend proclaimed offenders and outlaws hiding in the agency. It says the political administration had the information that 11 proclaimed offenders involved in a number of heinous crimes were hiding in the (Monumandi) areas near (Gulanai). When the law enforcing agencies started their operation to arrest the proclaimed offenders, they were fired upon by some miscreants. Consequently, the law enforcing agencies had to retaliate. As a result of the exchange of fire, two personnel of Mohmand (?corps) were killed and five others injured. The number of casualties from tribesmen could not be ascertained. The press note adds the political administration is determined to continue the operation till the agency was cleared of outlaws and proclaimed offenders.

Abducted New Zealander, 3 Afghans Freed

BK0508115491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] A (?citizen) from New Zealand and three Afghans kidnapped on Thursday [1 August] near Peshawar have been recovered after an operation in Khyber Agency. Dr. John Stevens from New Zealand is working as a consultant with the FAO, while three Afghans are attached to UNDP. Addressing a news conference in Peshawar this afternoon, the commissioner, Peshawar Division, said that in the operation 11 proclaimed offenders were arrested. Hectic efforts are on for the arrest of another three proclaimed offenders of the same group.

Sri Lanka

Fighting Continues Near Elephant Pass Camp

Tamils Attack 6 Aug; 27 Dead

BK0608133091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1322 GMT 6 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, Aug 6 (AFP)—Tamil Tiger guerrillas made surprise attacks on supply lines near the Elephant Pass Army Camp, with fierce fighting leaving 27 more dead, officials here said Tuesday.

A military spokesman said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas carried out two separate attacks on maintenance and supply lines on the camp's northwestern perimeter on Monday, killing six soldiers.

Troops retaliated, killing at least 21 Tigers and seizing 16 automatic weapons, the spokesman said, adding that army units immediately launched a search of the area.

"We lost five men and 21 injured in the first attack. One more soldier died and 20 others were injured in another clash," the spokesman said, citing a delayed situation report on Elephant Pass.

The spokesman had earlier said that no fighting had been reported Monday from the Elephant Pass area, two days after government troops broke a 25-day LTTE siege of the camp.

"The LTTE threat is certainly not over. But we know that the attacks on our supply lines were done to rattle us, more than an attempt to infiltrate deep into our positions," the spokesman said.

Military officials in Colombo admitted that the latest Tiger attacks proved that there was a large group of rebels unwilling to give up the fight.

"We expect more resistance and hit-and-run attacks. But we are ready for anything because our men went to Elephant Pass to finish them (the LTTE) off," a senior army officer said.

The military spokesman said that more than 6,000 troops, backed by air cover, continued Tuesday to expand and consolidate their positions on the camp's perimeter after establishing new defence lines outside the northern boundary of the base.

But "clearing up" operations were being slowed down by minefields laid by the LTTE, the spokesman said, adding the sandy terrain compounded problems because military vehicles often got stuck in the sand.

The spokesman also said that Air Force planes had spotted guerrillas withdrawing from positions north of the Elephant Pass garrison, but he could not say if it was a tactical move by the Tigers.

"We estimate more than 100 Tigers have left their strong points. But we don't know if they are going for good or trying to re-group and attack us," the spokesman said.

The casualties in Monday's fighting brought to 164 the number of soldiers killed since renewed fighting erupted in the Elephant Pass area July 10. Tamil Tiger deaths have been estimated at about 1,575.

Colombo sent in reinforcements July 14 to break the LTTE blockade of the camp, located at the mouth of the Tiger-controlled Jaffna peninsula.

Jaffna and four other northern districts remain under an indefinite curfew imposed more than three weeks ago by the government to restrict rebel movements in the north, large parts of which are under LTTE control.

The LTTE is waging a campaign to set up a separate state for the island's two-million strong Tamil minority. Fourteen months of peace talks between the Sri Lankan Govenment and the LTTE ended in failure in June 1990 leading to renewed fighting which has so far killed more than 9,450 people.

8 Dead From Tamil Land Mine

BK0708063891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0600 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—Tamil guerrillas detonated a landmine under an army vehicle in northeastern Sri Lanka killing eight soldiers, a military spokesman said here Wednesday.

The incident happened Tuesday as government troops continued to consolidate positions at the Elephant Pass military base, the officials said.

Guerrillas from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), set off the landmine killing an officer and seven soldiers instantly, the spokesman said.

The soldiers were on a patrol assigned to clear the area close to the town of Mullaitivu of LTTE mines and explosives, two days after troops destroyed a guerrilla hideout in the area.

Two LTTE rebels were killed when soldiers retaliated but most guerrillas escaped into nearby jungle after the ambush, the spokesman said.

The rebels are known to have some of their sophisticated communications centres and bases in the dense jungles around Mullaitivu.

Mullaitivu and the entire north has remained under an indefinite curfew since July when LTTE guerrillas renewed their attacks on the northern Elephant Pass army garrison.

The military spokesman said army reinforcements that broke a 25-day siege of the camp were continuing to expand and consolidate their positions outside the base on Wednesday.

"We know the Tigers are looking for holes in our defence to infiltrate. If they do creep in they will get an appropriate answer," he said.

A senior army officer meanwhile said he was confident troops at Elephant Pass would prevent LTTE guerrillas from cutting off supply lines to the camp which sits astride the neck of the rebel- controlled Jaffna peninsula.

Military officials admitted that ensuring supplies of food, arms and ammunition to more than 6,000 relief troops was an awesome task. But they said obstacles could be overcome once troops expanded the area of control around the base.

LTTE guerrillas carried out two separate attacks on the army's maintennance and supply lines to the camp on Monday killing six soldiers and losing 21 of their own men.

About 41 other soldiers were also wounded in the guerrilla raids which came two days after relief troops ended the LTTE siege on the camp.

Though the army won the battle for control of the camp Saturday, the rebels have continued to put up resistance to soldiers engaged in "mopping up" operations.

Government troops have lost 164 men and the LTTE has suffered some 1,575 dead since renewed fighting erupted in the Elephant Pass area a month ago after peace talks between the government and rebels aborted.

LTTE Bunkers Overrun; 90 Dead

BK0708114491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 7 Aug 91

[Text] An estimated 100 terrorists dropped their weapons and fled when Operation Balawegaya troops overran a network of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bunkers and established a new defense line northwest of the Elephant Pass security forces camp on Monday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that troops found 70 automatic rifles which the terrorists left behind in the bunkers as they stopped fighting and ran away in the face of superior soldiering and firepower. They also abandoned a machine gun in aircraft attack position. The search for terrorist weapons is continuing. Official sources said 40 LTTE cadres were killed during the operation. Fifty more terrorists were killed during their attempt to infiltrate the beachhead established by the Balawegaya task force at Vettilaikerni. An LTTE radio message had given the names of 47 of the dead cadres. The Balawegaya troops were yesterday engaged in consolidating their positions on the new northwest defense line and clearing a massive mine filed laid by the terrorists on the soil [word indistinct] as they withdrew. Meanwhile, government troops attacked and destroyed a network of LTTE bunkers in the Mullaitivu District on Monday.